



The Mashup thrills
Bridgend, see page 3.

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, MAY 23RD, 2013

RIGHT:

Members of the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) junior section have been hard at work rehearsing their latest show, Disney's 'Alice in Wonderland'. They take to the stage of the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, next week on May 29 and May 30, with a 2.30pm matinee and a 7.30pm show each day. GEM photographer Malcolm Nugent dropped into a rehearsal and found the young cast were looking forward to the big day

WHITE RABBITS AND MAD HATTERS!



'COME
AND
SEE US
ON
STAGE
NEXT
WEEK'

Foal rescued

AN RSPCA inspector arrived at Coity Common to investigate the birth of a foal.

He was mystified to discover that its mum was nowhere to be seen.

Local vets named the foal 'Valour' and are optimistic he will survive.

(To read the full story, turn to page 4).

COUPLE STOLE CASH FROM RUGBY CLUB KIDS' SECTION

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A MARRIED couple who took part in running the junior and mini sections of Bridgend Athletic RFC, stole more than £14,000 when entrusted with funds donated by friends and supporters.

It was, said Judge Niclas Parry, at Cardiff Crown Court, "a case of betrayal and nothing else."

Police enquiries revealed that one of the defendants, Sally-Anne Howells, had unlawfully used a debit card in the name of the club on no fewer than 79 occasions.

A victim impact statement underlined the disbelief that people could behave in such a way, said the Judge.

Richard Howells, 37, and his wife Sally-Anne Howells, 36, of Pentre Howell, Pencoed, pleaded

guilty to stealing credit balances held by Natwest Bank, Pencoed, belonging to the junior and mini sections of Bridgend Athletic RFC.

Each was jailed for 10 months, suspended for 18 months.

Richard Howells was made subject to a six-month 7pm to 6am curfew, involving electronic tagging, and his wife was ordered to carry out 300 hours unpaid work.

The Judge said that all over the country, decent people gave their services to such organisations on a voluntary basis, giving opportunities to young children, but the couple had committed a high breach of trust and manipulated their positions to their financial benefit.

Prosecutor Jason Howells said the total loss was £14,358. He said Richard Howells had coached at the club, which was a non-profit organisation, and his wife became involved in fundraising.

But, he said, they used credit facilities to fund their own lifestyle.

Certain bills were not paid and on a tour of west Wales, for it to continue, a supporter had to pay out £3,500.

Monies were found to have gone missing from a number of fundraising events.

Later, Richard Howells admitted using a debit card for his own use and said he hoped to repay the money, some of which was used to subsidise his mortgage.

Both were said to have no previous convictions.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

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Garw Valley Life Centre's 'wonderful new library' open



ABOVE, pictured (left to right) are: Janice Gregory AM; Minister for Culture and Sport, John Griffiths; BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing, Coun Lyn Morgan; CEO of Halo Leisure, John Argent; Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Marlene Thomas; Coun Reg Jenkins and the Mayor's consort, Mr George Davies.

BOOK lovers in the Garw have marked a new chapter – with the official opening of an all-new library facility at the Garw Valley Life Centre.

Formerly located at Pontycymer's Oxford Street, the library's new home means that it can offer longer opening hours, more books, a wider range of additional lending resources – DVDs and CDs – increased opportunities for community and learning activities, a new children's area and enhanced ICT facilities, including free Wi-Fi for library members.

The extra benefits, including greater accessibility, free off-street car parking, and the provision of the new library, has been supported by a £120,000 Community Learning Library grant from the Welsh Government.

The new library was opened by Minister for Culture and Sport, John Griffiths, in the presence of the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Marlene Thomas.

The Cwm Garw Male Voice Choir welcomed guests to the opening as the minister toured the library and saw how local people are already making the most of the new facilities, by using the building as a venue for community events – including homework clubs and reading groups.

Mr Griffiths said: "Thanks to



ABOVE: The new facility.

a Welsh Government grant, Bridgend County Borough Council and its leisure partners Halo have been able to create this wonderful new library service along with a crèche. This resulted in an increase in opening hours from 17 in the old library to over 57 in the new library. "This fantastic new facility has already seen an increase of 30 per cent in the number of items borrowed so I am especially pleased to be here today to officially open it."

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing, commented: "The relocation of the library into this larger, more modern library space is a huge boost to the library service

enjoyed by people in the Garw Valley.

"The life centre model has already been exceptionally popular in Ogmere, particularly with families and children, and I think it's safe to say that these fantastic new facilities here in the Garw Valley will be another big success story."

Also present were Janice Gregory AM, BCBC cabinet members, local and community councillors, and CEO of Halo Leisure, John Argent.

The project has included an upgrade to the centre's entrance and reception area, which comprises new seating areas and an improved, customer-friendly space.

organisations offering a wide range of opportunities for all ages and abilities. Make a trip to Bridgend town centre to find out how to boost your confidence, improve your chances of getting a job, meet new people and learn new skills by taking up the wide variety of volunteer opportunities available in Bridgend county borough."

For further details, call 01656 810400 or visit www.bavo.org.uk.

Did you know that you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

GEM READERS' LETTERS

Calling old comrades!

THE Royal Welsh Regiment Comrades Association, is made up from soldiers who have served or still serve in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, South Wales Borderers, Welsh Regiment, Royal Regiment of Wales and the Royal Welsh Regiment.

Meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month at Bridgend and District United Services club, Tondur Road, Bridgend.

If you have served and would like to meet up with old friends or meet new friends, you will be most welcome to attend the next meeting.

Never mind your cap badge, Regiment or

Corps – all will be welcomed!

For further details, contact 01656 785435 or email daved43@sky.com.

Davie Davies, Bridgend.

TACKLING POVERTY

WE hear (quite frequently) politicians of all colours and at all levels of the political spectra, proclaiming their desire to "raise children out of poverty."

That is, indeed, a laudable ambition, but children cannot be raised out of poverty unless the parents are first raised out of poverty. The exact opposite is happening at the present time.

Almost certainly what these politicians are doing is trying to play on the sentiments of parents, when what they really want is to gain or hold on to power.

With the attacks on welfare initiated by this Tory-led coalition, while making the rich richer, amply supported by the LibDems – and the nearly same agenda (albeit

hidden for the present) of the Labour party and UKIP – no child is going to rise above poverty, no matter how loudly politicians scream their pseudo-platitudes on this issue.

It is little wonder that politics has sunk to almost sewer levels when politicians are barely swimming above it.

Only a politician who tells the naked truth (sadly, virtually none do at present) will find resonance with the electorate.

Very few of us, if any, are not able to see the difference between the truth, lies and sound-bites.

It is amazing that politicians seem unable to figure that out, so one does wonder if it takes a very discordant mind for anyone to launch into politics these days.

Marc Delaney, Barry.

Life not sweet without bees

IT seems like our Government enjoys going against public opinion – no matter what the evidence to the contrary.

They actually voted against a ban on a nerve agent pesticide at the EU debate to protect our bees.

Their excuse is to protect food production, but the argument could also be used to protect bees for food production. So what is the real purpose of their opposition?

LET IT BEE

What would life be, without a bee?
No flowers, no fruit, for you and me,
No sound or hum, in the morning sun,
No taking the mick, when someone is stung.
This country would be a more desolate place,
The Government should join the human race.

Colin Dudley, Barry.

Green waste collection

CAN I thank the 1,200 or so Bridgend county households who have already signed up for our new green waste collection scheme?

In case readers haven't heard of it, this is a new service offered by the council and our partners May Gurney.

For a £27 a year subscription (£23 for pensioners), we will supply reusable sacks for collecting your garden cuttings and clippings. We'll then collect them from your kerbside on the same day as your black bags, returning the empty sacks to you to refill.

Feedback suggests gardeners are not only finding this convenient as it saves them a trip to the tip, they also like the idea that their garden waste is being recycled too.

A few people have asked why the service isn't free. If we were to offer it free of charge to everyone, we estimate that would cost an extra £1 million a year.

That's why we think it's fairer to make it an 'opt in' service so only those who want to use it need to pay.

The service runs through the main growing season of April to end of October so if you break that down, the cost is quite modest.

There's still time to sign up. Just call us on 643643. Remember, there are no recycling or waste collections on Bank Holiday Monday, so everything will be collected one day later next week.

Let's hope the bank holiday provides us with some good gardening weather!
Coun Phil White, (BCBC cabinet member for communities)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 30)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
23 Thur	05.23	9.1	17.53	9.4
24 Fri	06.14	9.6	18.41	9.8
25 Sat	07.03	9.9	19.29	10.2
26 Sun	07.54	10.1	20.18	10.3
27 Mon	08.42	10.2	21.05	10.3
28 Tues	09.31	10.0	21.49	9.9
29 Wed	10.21	9.6	22.44	9.6
30 Thur	11.08	9.1	23.33	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Call out for local volunteers in the Bridgend town centre

ON Friday May 31, as part of National Volunteers' Week celebrations, Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) is holding an outdoor volunteer event in Bridgend town centre from 10am – 3pm, with stalls from local charities and voluntary organisations.

A spokeswoman said: "Volunteers' Week is a national event which celebrates the fantastic contribution that millions of volunteers make across the UK, and plays a huge part in raising the profile of the millions of volunteers who regularly contribute to their local community, inspiring others to get involved, too."

"BAVO has over 300 registered voluntary

Bridgend's 'MashUp' opens up the town to a whole new world of sporting excellence

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

THOUSANDS of people were out on the streets of Bridgend last Saturday (May 18) for the Bridgend MashUp – which offered a host of unexpected athletic events, all taking place in the town centre.

It all started with an abseil down the Bridgend Job Centre, and then street runners, stunt bikes, pole vaulters and even surfers were demonstrating their ability.

In recent years, Bridgend has looked for events that are a little more 'quirky' than the standard fare, and this policy looks set to continue, after the success of this year's event!



ABOVE: A pole vaulter pauses for thought.



ABOVE:
Abseiling down the Job Centre building/

'Porthcawl's new marina could be too expensive' – SAYS A REGIONAL AM

WELSH Shadow tourism minister Suzy Davies has warned Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) that the new charges being levied on boat owners at Porthcawl's new harbour could drive them away.

Mrs Davies said she had met two of the owners who said that the top charge of £1,200 for a 30 foot boat was on a par with that levied in Cardiff, where facilities were far superior. The old charge was £250.

She said: "While I welcome the work that is being done, which is long overdue, what the boat owners will end up with is a revamped harbour with marina prices.

"The owners are having to chip in £10,000 towards the cost of providing electrical hook-ups, which the council had not intended to do at all until the owners complained.

"The council also intend to put portable toilets on site – again

only after the boat owners lobbied for them. Those are the only facilities, compared to Cardiff where boat owners have a bar, restaurant, proper toilets and showers and laundry facilities for the same price.

"Of course, the charges needed to be raised to reflect the improvements in the harbour, but the scale of the increase is disproportionate."

Mrs Davies said that it was important that the harbour was a success and that it acted as a draw to visiting boats as well as retaining its existing users.

"I understand that owners have decided to give the harbour a chance and will stay for a year but if they feel that the facilities are inferior, many will not renew their membership.

"I gather that the council spent seven years talking to the owners about what was needed at the harbour but then pressed ahead regardless with its own ideas."

A Bridgend County Borough Council

spokesman said: "With prices based on market research, almost all – 27 out of 30 – of the original berth holders have already accepted a place at the new Porthcawl Marina, and the council has been contacted by more than 120 boat owners who want to apply for berths.

"More than £3.2million has been invested in the new marina and with every penny of this accounted for, the intention has always been to provide additional facilities through other phases of the ongoing regeneration.

"The fact remains that the council is con-

tinuing to deliver regeneration during a difficult economic climate and at a time when many projects in other parts of the UK are failing.

"We are confident that Porthcawl Marina is set to become an extremely popular and well-used focal point for the seafront area.

"It is also acting as a catalyst for further regeneration work, especially at the leisure development site just north of the harbour and at the nearby Jennings Building, which is about to be marketed to developers."

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RSPCA rescue foal on Coity Common

When RSPCA Inspector Nick de Celis was called out to check on a new-born foal on Coity Common, north of Bridgend, he fully expected to be looking for a mare and its new foal.

"However, when I arrived around 4.30pm, there was no sign of the mare, only the foal which was so young it was still attached to the afterbirth.

"The council horse wardens were looking for the mare on the common, but had no success," he explained.

"The early hours and days of a foal's life are crucial to building their immunity from the mother's first milk – so this poor little animal had missed out and was clearly in a bad way, so we called local Maes Glas Vets for help and got the little foal to them as quickly as we could," the Inspector added.

Maes Glas Vets named the new-born animal Valour and gave him the vital hourly colostrum replacement, which he was missing from his mother. Vet staff stayed with Valour overnight to ensure he had regular feeds and the best chance of survival.

"We were all thrilled that Valour made it through the night," said Sarah Head, one of the partners at the Maes Glas Veterinary Group. "He had such a poor start to life and desperately needed

hydration when he came in. Valour's not out of the woods yet and he won't start building his own immunity for two to three months so he's still at risk, but we're hopeful that he will make it."

Valour has now been moved to an equine specialist near Swansea, where he is being hand-reared.

The RSPCA is now looking for a foster mum for Valour. Call 0300 123 8018.



ABOVE: The abandoned foal that was rescued by the RSPCA on Coity Common.

Pyle councillor is new Mayor of county borough

THE new Mayor of Bridgend county borough is Coun Clive James, ward member for Pyle.

He takes over the role from Coun Marlene Thomas (Llangeinor), who wished her successor well.

"It has been a truly memorable year and I would like to thank everyone who has supported me during the last 12 months and helped to raise money for my four chosen charities – the Bridgend Stroke Association, Bridgend Riding for the Disabled, Breast Cancer Care and Emmaus South Wales, a charity which supports homeless people. I have met so many wonderful people, and it has been a real privilege to represent the county borough," she said.

"Coun James has been extremely supportive in his role as my deputy Mayor and it is a pleasure to pass the

Mayoral chains on to him and I wish him every success for the next year."

Coun James' wife, Pauline, becomes the Mayoress, while the new Deputy Mayor will be Bryncethin ward member, Coun Gary Thomas.

Coun James was inaugurated yesterday (May 22). The ceremony also saw the inauguration of the county borough's new Youth Mayor, Catherine Jones and new deputy Youth Mayor, Keiran Sawdon, who will both campaign on local youth issues.

The annual meeting re-elected Coun Mel Nott as Council Leader. His cabinet remains as follows: Deputy Leader – Coun David Sage; cabinet member for resources – Coun Mike Gregory; cabinet member for communities – Coun Phil White; cabinet member for wellbeing – Coun Lyn Morgan; cabinet member for children and young people – Coun Huw David.

The WI members vote to protect high street shops

A craft evening was held recently when Penllyn WI members made spectacle cases for the Glamorgan WI Show.

Three members attended the spring council meeting in Porthcawl on April 29.

As well as the usual business, we enjoyed the morning speakers, Angela Bending (standing in for Margaret Bourke, who was ill) and Rene Grenville on the history of the federation, with archive pictures.

Following presentation of awards, the speaker, Adam Henson (of 'Countryfile' fame) gave a lively and extremely interesting talk about himself, his background, his career and his farm.

At the May meeting, which was also the

AGM, members were welcomed by the president, Novello Peters, who introduced Judith Lucas, adviser for the AGM.

Jill Watkins presented the treasurer's report, and the finances were approved. There followed the secretary's report, which highlighted all our various activities, events and achievements since our last AGM.

Novello Peters then thanked the committee and members.

Judith Lucas complimented the branch on its wide range of activities. She told us about the new WI Guide, and also that the WI Constitution has been updated.

Then the president and committee stood down, and were all re-elected to their previous posts for another year!

Novello Peters introduced the speaker,

Rosemary Scadden, who gave an interesting talk about her career in television. She shared numerous interesting anecdotes involving famous personalities.

She was thanked by vice-president, Rhiannon Cory, and a short business meeting followed.

The WI Resolution, 'Help to bring an end to the decline of the High Street,' was discussed at length, with Sheree Pearson giving the case 'for' the resolution and Susan Wheatcroft presenting a case 'against'. Members then voted, and the motion was carried 15-1.

The next meeting will be on June 4 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Sarah Murray, talking about reflexology.

New members welcome on the first Tuesday in the month (except August), at 7.30pm in Penllyn Village Hall. For further information, contact 01656 647191 or 01656 647115.

School fitness day raises cash for playground

TREMAINS Primary School in Bridgend is putting sport at the heart of the school agenda to encourage pupils to lead a more active lifestyle.

Pupils on the school council who lead the scheme worked with teachers and other pupils to identify ideas on how sport could be improved at the school.

One of the ideas chosen was for the school to develop a new playground. The children wanted more designated pitch areas to be able to play sports like football, netball and cricket.

To raise money for the new playground, the school held a health and fitness day. Children were sponsored to take part in the day which involved them working through 10 activity stations, ranging from basketball shooting to sit ups. The day was a great success, raising £1,056 for the playground project.

The success of the fundraising spurred the school council to continue their efforts for improvements to the school. The school held a celebration ceremony

to thank everyone who had contributed to the playground fund and also launch a further initiative. Rhian Vernall and Kate George, account managers at New Directions Education, were invited to the ceremony, where they presented the school with a cheque towards the fund.

Rhian Vernall said: "The celebration ceremony has been really enjoyable. We have had a chance to meet the children who form the school council and also the children who will benefit from the new playground."

Matthew Hillman from Tremains Primary, added: "We are proud of the children who have worked really hard to raise the money for the new playground. It will not only benefit the current pupils, but also the children who will attend the school in years to come."

"The playground will be a lasting legacy which will encourage sport in our school."

'Beware this courier fraud phone scam'

THE Bridgend MP, Madeline Moon, is warning constituents to remain vigilant against a new phone scam.

Police have informed Ofcom, the communications regulator, that fraudsters are using courier firms to defraud elderly and vulnerable people of their life savings.

She stated: "The scam begins when a fraudster phones the victim, claiming to represent an authority such as the police or the bank, and says that the victim's bank account has been compromised and their card must be collected."

"They may suggest that the victim authenticates the call by hanging up and phoning the bank or the police. However, they do not hang up the line at their end, so the victim is still speaking to them after dialling the number. "Posing as the bank, the fraudster will ask the victim to enter their PIN number. They will then send a courier to collect the card."

Courier fraud has claimed 2,229 victims in the past two years, most

of them elderly people. Losses incurred run into millions of pounds, with some victims losing up to £155,000.

The recession has seen fraudsters take advantage of victims' financial difficulties, with offers of fake jobs, training and cheap credit.

The Citizens Advice Bureaux received 22,000 reports of scams in the last 12 months. UK consumers are believed to lose £3.5 billion to scams each year.

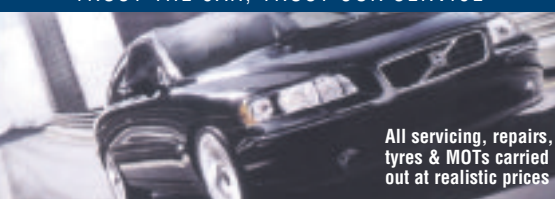
The MP continued: "I hope people will spread the information about this new scam, which is costing many elderly and vulnerable people a great amount of money and stress."

"People in Bridgend should know that the police or banks will never ask for their PIN number, and that they should never hand over their bank card."

"If you do get such a call, wait five minutes until the fraudster is automatically cut off the line, then call the police on 101," she added.

More information can be found on the Ofcom website: <http://tinyurl.com/cvams5hu>.

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Who wants to build what and where in the Bridgend county borough?

Mrs Sian Dalton – 9 Tremains Court, Brackla – 30 per cent crown reduction of Sycamore tree and remove front limb.
Cash 247 Ltd – 9 Nollon Street, Bridgend – One trough lift advertisement sign.
Brynhyfryd Camping – Brynhyfryd Campsite, Efordd y Gyfraith, Cefn Cribwr – Relax Condition 1 on FP/11/108/FUL to allow additional caravans.

St Brides Minor Community – Land rear Heol y Mynydd, Sarn – Place steel container 18' x 8' x 9' for use as a garden shed.
Mr Darren Sutton – 5 Bragdu,

Pencoed – Two storey extension to side and rear conservatory.

Mr Michael Pugh – Heathlands, 34 St Johns Drive, Porthcawl – Dormer extension to front.
Mr Carl Robinson – 2 Iron Way, Tondur – Move existing boundary wall to kerb edging to include land at side and rear of property.
Mr C Jones – 16 Park Court Road, Bridgend – Erection of single storey Edwardian style conservatory to the rear of the property.
Mr Frank Holdsworth – 23 Bedw Street, Maesteg –

Detached garage to rear.

Mr Williams – Plot 28, Deturberville Court, Parc Derwen, Coity – Change of house type to include conservatory.
Waterstone Homes Ltd – Land off South Road, Porthcawl – Relax Cond 15 of P/12/353/FUL to allow code for sustainable homes certs to be submitted by September 30, 2013.
Mr Phil Colston – 8 Garnwen Road, Nantfyllon, Maesteg – Two storey/single storey addition to rear.
Mr D Jones – 3 Poplar Road, Porthcawl – Two storey side

extension and new porch.

Trelaies Ltd – The Oyster Catcher, 47 High Street, Laleston – Change of use of public house to two dwellings, alterations including demolish eastern annexe and alterations to rear annexes.
Mr W Howells – Baiden Farm, Ffordd y Gyfraith, Cefn Cribwr – Installation of 18m high 11Kw wind turbine to provide electricity to the farm and home buildings.
Trelaies Ltd – The Oyster Catcher, 47 High Street, Laleston – Proposed single dwelling house on land at the rear of the public house.

Shock and pride as councillors have a royal appointment

BRIDGEND council leader Mel Nott and borough Coun Wyn Davies have spoken of their 'shock' and pride at receiving New Year Honours medals.

Coun Nott, who represents the Sarn ward, was presented with his OBE for services to the community and to local government by The Queen, at a ceremony in Windsor Castle.

Meanwhile, Princess Anne presented Caerau coun Wyn Davies with his MBE for public service and for services to the community, in a separate ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Coun Nott said: "I was shocked to find myself on the New Year Honours List, but I don't think it really hit home until the day of the ceremony. It was a truly wonderful occasion and such an honour to have my medal presented by Her Majesty."

"The Queen took time to ask me about my career in local government and I was extremely proud to tell her about the good work of Bridgend County Borough Council."

"What meant the most was being able to share the occasion with my wife Yvonne, my daughter Karen and my grandson Ethan."

"Representing my community over the years has been a privilege and done entirely to try and improve lives, homes and opportunities for the people of Sarn and for Bridgend county borough. I accepted this honour entirely on behalf of the community I serve, as well as for my wonderful wife and family who have always been such a



ABOVE: Council Leader Mel Nott and Coun Wyn Davies show their New Year Honours medals.

support to me."

Coun Davies was joined at his Buckingham Palace ceremony by his wife Hilary and daughter Sian Thorne.

He called the event "first class", adding: "The thing that strikes you is the organisation which goes into these ceremonies. It was like a military operation and was an unbelievable day."

"This really was a very special event for

my family, especially my wife. Princess Anne clearly knew all about why I had received my honour, which was for work in the Garw Valley community and the development of projects such as Parc Calon Lan. In fact, her opening words to me were 'I understand you like planting trees'." "Receiving the honour was so unexpected, but everyone I know is delighted for me and it is a really lovely feeling."

'Beware Spanish Euromillions lottery scam letters' – warning

LOCAL Trading Standards officials are warning residents to be on the lookout for scams involving letters through the post that suggest an international lottery win.

Four separate complaints have been received within the past week, suggesting that a spate of letters has been circulated in the local area. Following initial enquiries, BCBC's Trading Standards team has identified the letters as known scams, and are therefore advising residents not to respond.

The letters claim that the recipient has won anywhere between £700,000 and £900,000 on the 'Spanish EuroMillions Lottery'. No fees are requested from the recipient initially, but Trading Standards warn that contacting the people behind this scam will result in endless phone calls and letters demanding payment.

The warning comes during 'Scams Awareness Month', a campaign which the council is running throughout May to highlight the many different ways in which people can be scammed and how we can all play a part in making scams a thing of the past.

Bridgend County Borough Council Deputy Leader, Coun David Sage said: "Many of the people who receive this lottery letter will instantly recognise it as a scam and will be wary. However, there will be others who could be taken in by this and are at risk of being scammed."

"If you believe that a friend or relative is responding to letters, emails or phone calls which appear to be of a fraudulent nature, please ask them to speak to Trading Standards. Our officers will be able to investigate further and explain some of the tricks the scammers use to con money from people."

Trading Standards Service Manager Helen Pictou added: "We have dealt with scam cases where individuals have parted with thousands of

pounds in the belief that they will eventually win a huge cash prize. These prizes never materialise. Our message remains the same – if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Report any concerns to Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 040506 (or for a service in the Welsh language call 08454 040505), or email tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk.

'Talk about dementia'

The Alzheimer's Society, Bridgend and district, is encouraging residents to 'get talking about dementia' in Dementia Awareness Week™ (May 19 – 25).

The society is holding a dementia café in Maesteg, at Central Church, on Friday (May 24), between 1pm and 3:30pm. For further details, contact Kerry Phelps 01656 753754

SHOUT for the Princess of Wales Hospital... People of Porthcawl unite!

THERE are few decisions that will have a more fundamental effect on the people of Porthcawl than the long-awaited recommendations expected this week as to whether the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend will be upgraded or downgraded.

Either way, changes are certain to take place in the service provided and we all need to be especially vigilant at this critical time.

If we are to believe what has been reported in other sections of the press,

our hospital may well be favoured. This week will hopefully confirm beyond doubt the preference in favour of Bridgend.

Either way, however, we shall be entering a critical three-month period of further consultation before final decisions are actually taken.

It will be essential that we are able to demonstrate a solidarity throughout Porthcawl and the county at large to ensure that there is no doubting the importance we continue to place on positive decisions being taken by the Health Board in favour of Princess of Wales.

As usual, Porthcawl SHOUT is

responding aggressively by arranging a meeting during the final consultation period with Health Board Officials on July 5 at 2pm at Trinity Church, Porthcawl. Readers are asked to note this special occasion and make every effort to attend.

This will probably be the last opportunity for the town of Porthcawl to unite behind this crucial cause.

Please come along and show what it means to us to have the Princess of Wales Hospital, as hopefully, an upgraded regional hospital.

CLIVE MORT,
Hon Secretary, Porthcawl SHOUT

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WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

VALE schools are taking part in Walk to School Week, to encourage parents and pupils to make walking to school part of their daily routine.

Among schools taking part are Gladstone Primary and St Helen's RC Junior in Barry, Ysgol Gymraeg Pen y Garth in Penarth, St David's C/W Primary School in Colwinston, and both Llandough and Rhws Primary Schools, where junior road safety officers are organising the distribution of stickers and bookmarks to all who participate.

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Photo society hands out the annual awards

...And Richard is a double winner!

PYLE & Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual club competition three on Thursday May 16 at the Rest in Porthcawl.

The competition was in two sections Prints and Digital Projected Images, with a trophy for each, and every member could enter up to two images into both sections.

Nige Nicholas judged both competitions, and not only awarded the marks, but also provided a critique on each image with a little humour thrown in for good measure.

In the print section, first place went to Richard Craze with 'Blue Feather'. Second place went to Glyn Edmunds with 'Burst of Amber'.

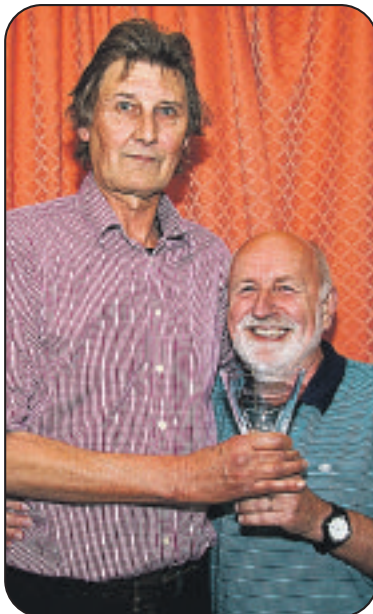
Third place also went to Richard Craze with 'Proud Soldier'.

In the digital section, first place went to Richard Craze with 'Five Posts and a Vent'. Second place was a tie between Paul Rosser with 'Sing for your supper' and Trevor Owen with 'Smile and the World smiles with you'.

Third place was a tie between Jill Saunders with 'Industrial' and Glyn Edmunds with 'Lilac-breasted Roller'.

Congratulations to Richard on winning both competitions and a big thank you to all who participated for making it such an interesting, entertaining and fun evening, particularly as Nige is 6 foot 8 tall, which made even the presentations an amusing time.

GE



ABOVE:
Nige Nicholas presents Richard Craze with his prize



'BURST OF AMBER'.



'FIVE POSTS AND A VENT'.

WRITE IN!

We welcome your news items and letters to the Editor.

Please email these to:

gem.editorial@tindlenews.co.uk

OR write to us at Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

Llanharry festival is a crowd-puller!

LLANHARRY festival organised by Llanharry and Tylagaw Community Association, and supported by Lovell, drew the crowds, with attractions ranging from live bands and dancing to classic cars, motorcycles and an art show.

The company also sponsored a shield presented to winners of the five-a-side football tournament held by Llanharry Primary School and sponsored the 'player of the match' award, which went to five-year-old Evan Holbrook.

Community Association chairman Nigel Pittard, said: "We

were really pleased with the event and delighted with the turnout.

"We had some great feedback from the people who came along and the children had a fantastic time. We're very grateful for Lovell's support.

"Help from our sponsors is extremely important to us - we couldn't put on something like this without them."

Lovell community liaison officer Bernadette Vickery commented:

"The festival really brought everyone together and it was wonderful to see such strong community spirit.

"We were very glad to be able to get involved and play a part in helping the event happen."

Mixed fortunes for croquet club

DYFFRYN Croquet Club had mixed fortunes over the weekend.

The federation team of Peter Balchin, Sarah Melvin, Barry Marsh and Sue Mackay lost a close-fought match against Worcester Norton 4-3 on Saturday.

On Sunday, however, the team of Kevin Ham, John Evans, Sarah Melvin and John Cording won their first match in the inaugural Golf Croquet level play league when they beat Camerton and Peasedown (Bath) by 11.5 to 8.5.

How green is YOUR garden?

There's still time to register for our new garden waste collection service. You'll get:

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REMEMBER:

There will be NO recycling and waste collections on Monday 27 May as a result of the Spring Bank Holiday.

This means all collections will be one day later than usual up until Saturday 1 June.

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PC hands over prize money to Maesteg centre

A BRIDGEND woman police officer who won a £500 award has donated it to The Court House Project in Maesteg.

PC Sarah Evans received the cash when she won the South Wales Police student officer of the year award at the force's annual awards ceremony.

It had been donated by the Welsh Livery Guild, which promotes crafts and professional skills in Wales.

Around 20 organisations use The Court House Project, ranging from youth counsellors, sexual health and nutrition advisors, and people can also benefit from substance misuse presentations and music sessions.

PC Evans explained: "I wanted to give this money to a worthwhile youth initiative. The

Maesteg Neighbourhood Policing Team is really supportive of the Court House Project and hopefully the money will help to keep the project popular within the community."

Court House project manager, Les Jones, said: "We're very grateful to PC Evans for donating this money to us. We've bought a 47 inch flat screen TV and a PS3 Blue Ray Games Console. It will be used by everyone in the Court House, not only the young people, but also the drug and sexual health counsellors, health visitors, childcare staff, the nutrition classes, Bridgend home educators and others.

"We're really excited about our new teaching café and we'd be delighted for people to call in to make themselves a meal and watch the new TV."



PICTURED (left to right): Tyrone Hughes, Court House project youth worker, PC Sarah Evans, volunteers and young people using the centre.

CHILD 'ABDUCTION' False alarm in Porthcawl

A CHILD abduction scare in Porthcawl led to a police helicopter circling an area of the town last Saturday (May 18).

Police in Porthcawl were alerted to an incident on Davies Avenue in the town involving a young boy and the driver of a car.

A police spokesman said: "As a result of extensive police enquiries in the area, the man and the young boy were identified and the incident turned out to be perfectly innocent."

"Officers have taken steps to allay the fears of local parents."

"This incident has served to remind everyone of the 'stranger danger' message – although on this occasion it has turned out to be a misunderstanding, and nothing more sinister than that."

Tax credit claimants in Bridgend warned over scam emails

TAX credits claimants in Bridgend are being warned by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) in the run-up to the renewal deadline about scam or "phishing" emails sent out by fraudsters.

The warning comes as HMRC has launched an advertising campaign to remind claimants to renew their tax credits or their payments might stop.

During last year's tax credits renewals period, from April to July, nearly 22,000 phishing emails were reported to HMRC. Although the department worked with other agencies to shut down more than 147 scam websites during the period, others continue to be created.

Phishing emails often promise money back and, if the recipient clicks on a link, they are taken to a fake replica of the HMRC website. They are then asked to provide credit or debit card details or other sensitive information such as passwords. The fraudsters then try to take money from their account.

Money may be stolen from victims' bank accounts, or their personal details can be sold to criminal gangs, leading to possible identity theft.

Nick Lodge, Director General of Benefits and Credits, said: "HMRC will never ask you to disclose personal or payment information by email. We are committed to your online security but the methods fraudsters use to obtain information are constantly changing, so you need to be alert."

Anyone who receives this type of email should send it to phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk. "HMRC works with law enforcement agencies in the UK and overseas to shut down phishing attacks. Scam websites have been closed down in countries including Austria, Mexico, the UK, South Korea, the USA, Thailand, Eastern Europe and Japan."

Carol Clint, headmistress at St John's, said: "We are all extremely positive about joining Heathfield Independent Schools and delighted that ownership of the school will remain in Wales."

Couple stole from rugby club

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Owen Williams, for the wife, said she accepted the losers were the organisation and the young people.

"Her behaviour was deplorable and disgraceful and she wanted her remorse and regret conveyed to everyone."

Hash Salaman, for Richard Howells, said all the parties concerned felt betrayed, angry and upset.

He said he made full admissions, didn't blame innocent parties, and displayed genuine remorse.

"The most compelling point is his previous good character. He has had financial difficulties and prison would impact on his family."

"He has also lost his job because of the offence."

The couple denied stealing an unquantified amount of cash and it was directed that charge lie on the file.

Peg bags and bracelets show off Pencoed talent!

THE May 14 AGM/Resolutions meeting of Pencoed WI was well attended, and the branch voted to support the national Resolution to try to save the high street shops at the NFWI conference.

Next the AGM – just one change to committee. Jeanne was unable to continue and was thanked for her service, and Chris was welcomed.

The craft club, formed in October 2010, meet on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month at St David's Church Hall. So far this year, we have made traditional peg bags, lavender bags and played with acrylic paints.

On two occasions, we have paid a very talented lady who has helped us to make bracelets and necklaces.

She always brings a huge amount of beads etc., and the finished items we then purchase for a nominal amount.

Already in our programme for the rest of the year – flower arranging and making boxes. We then hope to make marzipan fruits (to go in the boxes for Christmas).

Our speaker on June 11 will be talking about Blood Bikes, a charity which works with the NHS. We meet at Pencoed Welfare Hall from 1.45pm to 4pm. Visitors always welcome. Contact Val on 01656862181 or Pat on 01656 860289 for further information. **VV**

St John's School changes hands

ST JOHN'S School in Porthcawl is lined up to join Welsh independent schools' group Heathfield Independent Schools.

The company, led by educational entrepreneur Andrew McCarthy, has agreed terms with the Church in Wales to secure ownership of the school.

With the aim of finalising an agreement later this month, this is the latest addition to Heathfield Independent Schools after it stepped in to save Kings Monkton School in Cardiff in April.

Andrew McCarthy of Heathfield Independent Schools, said: "When we were considering other independent schools to join our group, St John's Porthcawl was a natural fit for us as its family ethos matched that of our current school Kings Monkton in Cardiff."

"St John's Porthcawl provides a

close environment in which every pupil feels cared for, secure and supported in their school life, allowing them to work to the best of their ability and take advantage of every opportunity to learn and develop.

"It is a very well-known school with a successful track record. With our planned investment in the school's facilities we aim to improve the environment for staff and pupils and further strengthen its offering for the future."

"The move will also mean that both Kings Monkton and St John's Porthcawl will benefit from being part of a wider school group sharing best practice and teaching expertise."

Carol Clint, headmistress at St John's, said: "We are all extremely positive about joining Heathfield Independent Schools and delighted that ownership of the school will remain in Wales."



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St Peter's Church raises £350 for Christian Aid with 'scrumptious' afternoon tea party

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

MEMBERS of St Peter's Church, Peterston-Super-Ely organised an afternoon tea party in the community hall on Saturday, May 4, raising approximately £350 for Christian Aid.

The ladies provided a scrumptious spread, plus a cake stall, and the younger people were entertained with games and activities.



AUSSIE RUGBY LEGEND GIVES THE YOUNG BRYNCETHIN HOPEFULS A MASTERCLASS



ABOVE: David Campese (back row, with cap) meets young Bryncethin rugby players.



ABOVE: After the presentation, 'Campo' joins the Bryncethin Youth squad to celebrate their win.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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by contacting:

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Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,
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AUSSIE legend David Campese came to Bryncethin last week to celebrate the club's latest triumph.

He presented the WRU Youth League Trophy to the successful squad, and everyone was keen to get their hands on the trophy!

Later, he took the youth and junior section out on the field for a coaching clinic.

And, considering that Campo played in one of the all-time great back divisions for Australia, it was no surprise that the emphasis was on moving the ball at pace and with accuracy!



FEARS GROW FOR THE FUTURE OF LEGAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT

OUR former magistrates court in Barry, which provided access to justice for people across the Vale, was closed by the UK Government in 2011 – despite a strong campaign which united magistrates, solicitors, Victim Support, Women's Aid (Atal y Fro), the Vale Council, myself and many more.

It is greatly missed.

A few weeks ago, there was a further blow when a new Law came into force in April, which has removed access to legal support for many people.

Britain's most senior Judge, Lord Neuberger, and many others, have expressed serious concerns about this new Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, which removes many areas of civil law from the scope of legal aid funding, such as personal injury, some clinical negligence, employment and education law cases, private family law, and some debt, housing and benefits advice.

It has been described by Robert Jones, a Welsh solicitor, as 'a mean measure, penalising the weak and vulnerable'.

Lord Neuberger has warned that if people feel they are being denied access to justice, they may

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

end up 'taking the law into their own hands.'

With more people representing themselves, court hearings could take longer, increasing the workload of court staff and judges and ultimately this could end up costing the Government more.

Of course, many will not be represented by anyone at all.

The Legal Aid Bill was defeated 14 times in its passage through Parliament and was only just passed by the narrowest of majorities.

The former Legal Advice and Assistance Act 1972 enabled solicitors to give advice and assistance on housing, welfare benefits, debt,

employment under the Green Form Scheme and in 1993 advice centres, such as the CAB, were brought into the scheme.

This has now been scrapped and advice services and charities in Wales are already finding themselves under greater pressure as more and more people turn to them for support.

These legal aid cuts, and cuts to welfare benefits, as well as pressures on working households due to rising household and living costs, are having a devastating impact on the lives of many people.

Debt is a major problem and we are seeing a worrying rise in the number of payday loan lenders opening up on our high streets.

In Wales, the Welsh Government has pledged to fund Citizens Advice Cymru £2.2m a year until 2015 to support these volunteer-based advice services across Wales as more and more people turn to them for help.

LEGAL AID

Also, I have also been approached by solicitors who are concerned about the latest proposals for 'Transforming Legal Aid' which affect criminal legal aid.

I am advised that these changes will result in 'the complete dismantling of the criminal defence system' and 'downgrading of legal advice and assistance is not only inevitable, but is actually envisaged within the proposals.'

My constituents fear that large scale unemployment across the country will be inevitable, not only of the solicitors and their paralegal and secretarial/support staff, but also their secondary suppliers, together with the closure of most high street offices.

Legal Aid has formed part of our commitment as a society to help with the cost of legal advice for people who cannot afford it.

The UK Government's new legislation and administrative changes will turn the clock back and arguably could cost the Government more in terms of the unintended consequences of removing this support from people when they most need it.

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'YOUNG APPRENTICES' A CREDIT TO WALES'



Jane Hutt AM with apprentices and Aberthaw Power station managers and staff.

APPRENTICES from Aberthaw Power Station are pictured at the Senedd with their managers, to meet Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, who gave them a tour of the building.

The Vale AM explained: "Over the next two years, we are increasing our funding for apprenticeships by £40million providing extra support for employers, colleges and apprentices to boost their skills and job opportunities."

"I was very impressed with the Aberthaw apprentices, including two award winners in their team. They also study at Bridgend College and were confident, good communicators."

"The Welsh Government is giving apprenticeships priority in a time of funding pressure and constraint, and these young people are a real credit to their industry and to Wales."

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK...

Vale schools are taking part in Walk to School Week, to encourage parents and pupils to make walking to school part of their daily routine.

Among schools taking part are Gladstone Primary and St Helen's RC Junior in Barry, Ysgol Gymraeg Pen y Garth in Penarth, St David's C/W Primary School in Colwinston, and both Llandough and Rhosce schools.

Vale issues appeal for more foster carers

VALE residents are being urged to 'take the first step to fostering today', as the Vale Council launches a campaign to recruit more foster carers.

'A Vale Child Needs Vale Foster Carers' aims to keep foster children in the Vale, rather than finding placements in other counties.

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services, said: "When a child moves into foster care outside their own county, they leave their family, their friends, their school and their support network."



LEFT: Foster carers Kay and David Griffiths from Llantwit Major

home. "The Vale Council's fostering team welcomes applications from people from all walks of life, whether interested in providing foster care for respite, emergency, short-term or long-term placements."

For details, contact 01446 729 600, email fostercare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk to fill in an online form.

"The Vale of Glamorgan Council strives to make sure that doesn't happen, because we believe that a Vale child needs a Vale

WI LADIES' DAY IN BRECON...

MAY has been a merry month for St Athan WI.

The changing face of the public library was the topic for the talk at the monthly meeting and members were amazed and delighted to learn of the range of services now offered.

On Saturday, May 18 26 ladies set off on a

day out, incorporating a ride on Merthyr Mountain Railway, lunch and shopping in Brecon and finally a sunny evening cruise on the Brecon canal.

All agreed that it had been a lovely day and thanked Cath Thomas for arranging everything in her usual calm and competent way.

The annual Whist Drive on May 29 is another date on the calendar and is likely to be well supported as players always enjoy WI catering.

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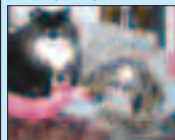
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'North Barry residents concerned about house proposals' says councillor

A Barry councillor says local residents are concerned about proposals to build 200 homes on a greenfield site at Weycock Cross.

Plaid Cymru's Ian Johnson visited an exhibition by Taylor Wimpey last Friday and spoke to people from Pontypridd Road, Nant Talwg Way, Highlight Park and Cwm Talwg.

Coun Johnson told The GEM: "Residents told me that they were concerned about over-development in the north of Barry and the impact of another 400 cars

on Port Road.

"They also expressed concerns about some of the claims being made – including good public transport and links with Barry town centre."

Coun Johnson pointed out that 2011 census figures indicate that projected population figures could be over-estimated by up to 40 per cent.

He added: "There is a serious question as to whether these proposals are meeting demand or leading the market."

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many people have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, B&T and Porthorl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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LOCAL GIRLS ARE TOP-NOTCH FUNDRAISERS FOR VELINDRE

A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl from Ystradowen – along with two friends – has raised a remarkable total of £350 for Velindre Hospital in Cardiff.

Alys Phillips from Ystradowen, Maddie Daley from Talygarn and Hannah Davies from Llanharan, all aged nine, have over the last few months been raising money for the cancer hospital.

The three girls all go to Pendoylan Primary School, and earlier this year organised a table top sale in Ystradowen.

Alys's mother, Helen, told The GEM: "Since then they have done another sale in Pure Indulgence, Pontyclun,

where they sold handmade bracelets, cards, cakes, bird food, and sock monsters.

"They visited Velindre Hospital recently and handed over the money they had raised to date, which was an impressive £350.

"They also received a certificate for fundraising, a few goodies and the fundraiser coordinator was extremely grateful and impressed by the amount the girls had raised.

"The girls have worked very hard and we are very proud of them."

RIGHT

Alys Phillips, Maddie Daley and Hannah Davies were welcome visitors at Velindre Hospital.



Good away win for Cavs' second team

LLANTWIT Major Cavaliers Second XI travelled on a glorious Sunday afternoon to play Neath fourths in a SWCA Saturday League Fixture.

Shane Callard won the toss and asked Neath to bat first on a cracking Gnoil pitch. They totalled 114 for 7 from 40 overs, with opener Elliot Bradley top scoring with 32, closely followed by Gareth Rees.

The best bowling came from Andrew Williams (2 for 8 off 5 overs) and Dave Cheal (1 for 23 off 10) while Phil Vincent, Gareth Hughes and Joe Jenkins also took a wicket each.

After a fantastic tea, the Cavs set about overhauling the Neath total and, with the exception of an unfortunate duck, all the batsmen chipped in with useful contributions, as the Cavs won the game in the 30th over.

The Cavs finished on 115 for 6. Gareth Hughes top scored with 26 with Shane Callard finishing on 22 not out.

Neath had two young ladies playing for them, one who kept wicket very well and H Lake who bowled six very good overs for 22 and took a fantastic overhead catch at mid-on.

Next week both Cavs teams play Felinfoel with the 2nd XI playing away. **DC**

Threatened bus route is saved

THE Vale Council has announced that it has secured the future of Bus Service 320, which travels from Talbot Green to Cardiff via Hensol, Pendoylan, Peterston super Ely and St Fagans, after Watts Coaches recently withdrew from their contract with the council.

In a slightly revised timetable, service 320 will also serve St

George's super Ely on two journeys each day and will commence on Monday June 10.

The bus is funded by the council, with assistance from the Welsh Government and Cardiff Council and operates six days per week throughout the year.

Budgetary pressures, as a result of the reduction in the level of Local Transport Grant funding from the Welsh Government, along with a significant rise in the cost of providing bus services generally, has meant that Bus Service 322, which currently

travels from Barry to Cardiff via Peterston super Ely, St George's super Ely and St Fagans will end on Friday, June 7.

The new operator of Bus Service 320 is New Adventure Travel. They can be contacted by telephoning 02920 442 040.

All bus timetables can be found on the council's website at: http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/transportation/public_transport/bus_timetables.aspx.

Cathedral School launches its brand new Sixth Form

ACKNOWLEDGED by The Times on September 1, 2012, as the top co-educational school in Wales at GCSE, the Cathedral School is building on these strong foundations with the launch of its Sixth Form in September 2013.

The Cathedral School Sixth Form will offer very small classes, highly experienced staff with close university links and an ambitious and supportive culture in equal measure.

With a range of more than 20 A-Level subjects, it will bring freshness, excitement and intense focus for pupils who would like to be part of a unique sixth

form experience, not simply 'run of the mill', within a genuinely co-educational context.

Work is under way on the new Sixth Form Centre, which will open in readiness for GCSE results day in August.

Financial support is available for bright pupils at year-12 entry (and year-7), with scholarships for especially gifted children – academic, music, sport – and means tested bursaries worth up to 100 per cent of fees.

For further information, visit www.cathedral-school.co.uk; or contact the registrar, Mrs Pam Critcher on 029 2083 8504 or email registrar@cathedral-school.co.uk



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Colcot pupils' ugly bug ball!

NURSERY children at Colcot Primary School recently enjoyed an Ugly Bug Ball as part of their topic on mini-beasts.

All week, the children helped to prepare the food for the ball. On the day of the ball they came dressed as spiders, ladybirds, caterpillars, butterflies, bumblebees and worms.

After dancing and games they enjoyed a feast of 'snail' sandwiches, 'ladybird' biscuits and 'spider' cakes. Staff and children had a good time.



Bobath Cymru's appeal for £5 sponsors... 'Miss two cups of coffee a month and help children who have cerebral palsy'

SINCE he was three years old, Dewi Davies, who has cerebral palsy and is dependent on his Bridgend family for all his needs, has been attending Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales for specialist treatment.

As the youngest of three children, Dewi's parents realised that there were problems with his development as he was not hitting milestones.

His mum, Tammy, explained how he was referred to Bobath Wales and the difference it has made to the whole family.

"After being referred by his consultant, we were seen by a physiotherapist who immediately referred Dewi for tests. After many blood tests, a CT scan and a MRI, Dewi was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

"After Dewi's first therapy block with Bobath, we saw wonderful changes. Dewi was unable to take weight on his legs at the beginning of the block, but by the end with great delight he took a little bit of weight when supported.

"It gives me and my husband great joy in knowing that someday Dewi may walk with the help of mobility aids. Something we had not let ourselves hope for.

"Dewi has now completed his second block of Bobath therapy, and is getting closer to the goal of walking. Without Bobath, Dewi would not be able to do half the things that he can do today."

Bobath Wales' annual Sponsor a Child Appeal asks the public to sponsor a child like Dewi by giving up the equivalent of two cups of coffee every month and instead make a £5 donation to help provide specialist therapy to children from all over Wales who have cerebral palsy.

For as little as £5 a month, they can sponsor a child to make Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales' 21st birthday year.

Gail Griffiths, Bobath Wales fundraising manager said: "Giving up £5 a month will help us to expand our capacity so we can see more children like Dewi who need us. Because the gift is a regular one, it will

help us plan in the knowledge that we have some money coming in every month."

Visit <http://www.bobathwales.org/sponsor-a-child/> For further information, contact the fundraising team on fundraising@bobathwales.org or call 02920 522600 or visit www.bobathwales.org.

Garden open day raises £2,000 for charities

HUNDREDS of visitors supported the first Garden Open Day organised by the National Garden Scheme in Dinas Powys.

Fine weather meant that visitors were able to enjoy the almost secret gardens. One visitor said that he had walked past one garden many times and never realised what a gem was behind the hedge.

The four gardens attracted many visits from outside the village. It was one of the earliest open days of the year and despite the recent poor weather, the plants were a joy to see.

In fact, there was an additional surprise garden to view that was not part of the official pro-

gramme but visitors could access the garden on route.

Well over £2,000 was raised for cancer charities and also the local Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern.

Mr John Fanshaw, chair of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, said he was delighted with the support from the public and was grateful for the financial contribution. All charities are facing a difficult time and this donation was very welcome.

The next Dinas Powys open day will be held on Sunday, July 28.

As usual, there was an army of workers who assisted in the open day, and their help was essential in ensuring the event was such a success.

CF

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Charity day

STAFF at the Spar, Cowbridge, are holding a fundraising day this Saturday (May 25) 9am-5pm, collecting for the NSPCC and Sands (which offers support when a baby dies during pregnancy or after birth).

There will be a sponsored exercise bike ride, raffle (many of the prizes donated by local businesses), bottle tombola, cake sale, 'name the monkey'.

Drumming workshop

JOIN Art4U for a Djembe drumming workshop run by Glyn Pooley on Saturday, May 25, at Victoria Park, Cadroxton, Barry, from 11am. Workshop free and open to all; donations appreciated.

Church invite

THE public is invited to see the new doors at St Tathan Church and 'have a cup of tea and a chat' while buying plants, home-made cakes, cup cakes, bric-a-brac and/or Fairtrade goods at 10am on Saturday, May 25.

Family service

ALL SAINTS Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, will be holding a family service at 10am on Sunday, May 26, on the theme 'Who is the Holy Spirit?'

There will be worship items suitable for all ages and refreshments are served afterwards. Creche facilities available.

All are welcome. For more information, visit www.allsaintspenarth.org.uk

Gardening club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday, May 30, in the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm, when Clayton Radford will give a talk on 'all year round gardening'. New members welcome.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, May 29, at 10.30am, the Coffee Shop Strollers Barry Hub meet at Cold Knap, Barry, outside the Bridge Cafe.

On Friday, May 31 - Sunday, June 2, the Vale of Glamorgan walking festival takes place. For details, see www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk

Guides sought

THE 3rd St Athan Guides will be 50 this year, and are asking GEM readers to help

them track down former members to join in the celebrations.

Contact pinkclarebear@hotmail.com or telephone 07738 950101 for further information.

Classic cars

THE inaugural Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car Show takes place at Sully Sports and Leisure Club, on Bank Holiday Monday (May 27, 10.30am start) when more than 250 classic cars are expected to be on display.

Adults £2.50, children admitted free. It is being organised by the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys.

Cabinet meets

VALE Council's cabinet will be holding a community question and answer session on Tuesday, May 28, from 6pm to 8pm in the Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

The meeting is open to the public, who will have the chance to question the cabinet on any Vale issues.

Easy gardening

THE next meeting of Llantwit Major Horticultural Society will take place on Wednesday, May 29, at 7.30pm in the Llantwit Major.

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It sees the return of regular speaker, Kevin Thomas, talking on low maintenance gardening.

You do not have to be a member to attend; all are welcome and entry, refreshments and raffle are free of charge. Contact secretary, Sylvia Geary, on 01446 792087.

Walking festival

THE Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival takes place, May 31-June 2.

The festival offers 21 varied walks over three days, taking in rolling countryside, cliffs, beaches, scenic villages and historic market towns.

All walks are free, but car park charges may apply. For further information or to book a walk, call 01446 749000 or email walkfest@valeways.org.uk

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Fabulous doggy fun day out at Fonmon

THE organisers of the second South Wales Dog Charity Fun Day at Fonmon Castle Show Ground on Bank Holiday Monday, May 27, have an amazing array of attractions and displays, with something for the whole family.

We have Lucy and Indie, winners of ITV's 'That Dog Can Dance', the only rescue staffie working as a police drug detection dog, carting Newfies, huskies, ferrets, falconry, giant tortoises, a gundog display and Paws For Thought Dog Display Team.

Renowned heel work to music experts, Carol and Michelle Dodson, will be providing us with one of their amazing displays.

The Barking Blondes, Anna Webb and JoAnne Good from their radio show 94.9FM Barking at the Moon will be signing advance copies of their new book.

For our younger visitors we have a climbing wall, pony rides, glitter tattoos, face painting, balloon modelling, quad bikes, zorbing, a fun fair and Play Aloud, who will be providing numerous play opportunities free throughout the day!

For dog owners, we have a huge fun dog show, with classes for all dogs and amazing prizes.

Dogs Trust will be providing free micro chipping and there are various 'have a go' events for your dog to try

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For more information, please go to www.fonmoncharitydogshow.com and our Facebook South Wales Dog Charity Fun Day page and Twitter @SouthWalesDogCh.

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Luhrmann's Gatsby is good, but not great!

ONE of the finest novels of the 20th century, *The Great Gatsby* has already been adapted for the big screen in 1974, with Robert Redford in the title role.

However that hasn't stopped Baz Luhrmann from attempting his own take on the source material in his first film since 2008's *Australia*.

Tobey Maguire plays Nick Carraway, a young man caught up in the lavish lives of a group of socialites including Tom and Daisy Buchanan (Joel Edgerton and Carey Mulligan) and, of course, the mysterious Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio).

Drawn into their circle, Nick becomes privy to all sorts of details that will cause drama and heartbreak...

To take on a novel widely regarded as one of the greatest of the 20th century takes a certain amount of chutzpah, but for Baz Luhrmann it's just another job - after all, once you've adapted Shakespeare (and gave it a shot in the arm that made younger audiences take another look at the bard's work) with *Romeo and Juliet* then you can feel confident enough to tackle any literary source.

Luhrmann's theatricality has always been his calling card - and his Achilles heel - with critics complaining that his histrionics sometimes detract from the story he's trying to tell.

It's a charge that many will level at this adaptation of *The Great Gatsby* but, while his tendency for sweeping dramatics is more than pleasing to my eye, it's the lack of depth and sheen of superficiality that leaves this film more good than 'Great'.

Kicking off the film by using his own framing device (one that on paper seemed disrespectful but on screen works wonderfully), the film soon becomes singularly Luhrmann's, all expansive zooms and pull-outs, booming (modern) soundtracks married to a sumptuous visual sense.

It may not be 'of period' but



**by GARETH
JAMIESON**
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those who have read the book will be impressed at how the director has turned description to reality. The homes and locations are incredibly evocative of Fitzgerald's prose.

But while Luhrmann deserves plaudits for this, he deserves criticism for being unable to deliver the substance under the style.

While the story unravels much as in the book, the characters themselves don't feel fully realized. At no point do you sense the longing of Gatsby for Daisy, the emotion of Daisy trying to make a life-changing decision, or Nick's growing love of Gatsby.

The script, written by Luhrmann with regular collaborator Craig Pearce, reconstructs the story well but just doesn't nail the emotional core, nor the slowly building doom as the party comes closer and closer to being over.

The film is well-acted, Leonardo DiCaprio built for the role of the playboy with a darker longing and his performance is impressive, as is Carey Mulligan's, whose glittering world belies a loveless loneliness that can never come to the surface.

The best performances, however, come from Tobey Maguire, who invests Carraway with an innocent sensibility corrupted by the people around him, an accomplice slowly seduced by

Buchanan an arrogance and attitude, his sense of entitlement burning through the character.

If Luhrmann had managed to bring in the depth and emotion that the book has in droves then this would be an incredible affair; instead as the film progresses, the emotion just doesn't kick in and by the end, even Luhrmann's direction becomes muted; a noble attempt for sure, but one that fails in its attempts at greatness.

VERDICT - Stylishly executed but lacking in the emotional depth that would have made it soar, *The Great Gatsby* is definitely a Baz Luhrmann film, and works well in terms of its visual sense, but strip it down to the dramatic core and, even with skilled performances, it just lacks that little bit of depth. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:
Moulin Rouge! (2001), *Citizen Kane* (1941)

NEWS IN BRIEF Summer fayre

THE Nottage summer fayre is being held on Saturday, June 8 at St David's Church, Florence Street, Nottage, at 12.30pm.

Attractions and refreshments, sandwiches, hot dogs and strawberries with ice cream.

Tondu art show

TONDU and District Art Society holds its summer exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig (near Bridgend), one mile from Jct 36 M4) from June 15-18 at 10am-6pm daily (11am-4pm on Sunday).

Free entry, light refreshments, raffle.

Diabetes Collection

DIABETES UK is looking for volunteers in the Vale to help co-ordinate a 'Big-Collection' weekend at local Tesco stores on October 4, 5, and 6 and raise hundreds of thousands of pounds, as part of a major national charity partnership.

You can visit www.diabetes.org.uk/tesco-collection-weekend, or call 02929 668276 for more information.

Charity fun day

TY HAFAN will again be staging its annual Fun Day on June 30, in the grounds of this hospice at Sully, from 12pm-6pm.

The day will include classic cars, bouncy castles, craft stalls, police dog show, fairground rides - and a tug-of-war tournament.

"Whether you're already a supporter, would like to learn more about the hospice, or simply looking for a fun day out come on down to Ty Hafan and let us entertain you!" a spokesperson urged. Members of the Care Team will be available to host tours giving an insight into life at the children's hospice.

For further information, contact events@tyhafan.org. Add reply@tyhafan.org to your address book now.

VALE THRILLER

A NEW thriller set in the Vale of Glamorgan has been released by Y Lolfa publishers.

Blood Month by William Vaughan, is a detective story set in a fictional boys' boarding school in Llanover, where a young teacher chances upon the body of the unpopular headmaster.

It is the author's first attempt at an adult novel following the publication of three novels for children and young adults. Born and educated in Cardiff, William Vaughan has taught English and history at schools in Leicestershire and Cardiff.

Winner's talk to Scott Society

DAVID FARROW has told the Cardiff-based Captain Scott Society about his adventures in Kurdistan, where, as a member of the Cambridge University mountaineering team, he attempted climbs on a number of previously unconquered peaks.

Each year, the Scott Society expeditious committee selects its 'Spirit of Adventure' award winner from a wide range of

applicants. The award is worth £2,000, although some winners in the past have commented that it is the prestige associated with the award, rather than the money, which counts most.

The society looks in particular for a 'first' and the award is available to any individual or group undertaking an adventurous pursuit that exemplifies Captain Scott's spirit of adventure.

Contact either Jack Wright (expeditions secretary) on 02920 754869 or Julian Rosser (chairman) on 02920 626715.

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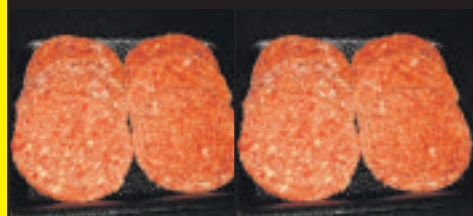
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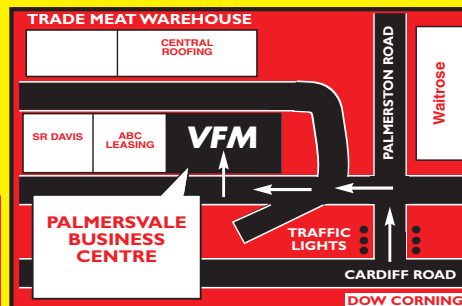
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POLICE HONOUR 'OUTSTANDING EFFORTS' OF LOCAL OFFICERS



ABOVE: Chief Supt Liane James presents Kristy Evans with her award.



ABOVE: Janine Ireland receives her award.



ABOVE: Insp Steve Rees receives the award on behalf of Fiona Haggerty.



ABOVE: Rebecca Merchant receives her award.



ABOVE: Daniel Boyle receives his award.



ABOVE: Chief Supt Liane James presents Megan Hughes with her award.



ABOVE: Andy Price receives his award.



ABOVE: Acting Chief Insp Sue Sidford receives her award.

THE hard work of police officers and staff who go above and beyond the call of duty has been recognised at the South Wales Police Central BCU awards ceremony.

The event was held at Barry Memorial Hall to celebrate the outstanding achievements of officers, staff and partner agencies over the past 12 months in keeping the communities of Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan safe.

A total of 14 awards were given out, ranging from accolades for exceptional bravery, leadership and teamwork to lifetime achievement.

A number of divisional commander's commendations were also presented in recognition of outstanding work throughout the year.

The ceremony was funded entirely by sponsorship from local companies.

Central BCU divisional commander, Chief Supt Liane James, said: "The ceremony gives us a platform to recognise officers and staff who go above and beyond the call of duty.

"On a daily basis as divisional commander, I see first hand the excellent work that these individuals and teams undertake to keep our communities safe.

"In the past 12 months, there has been a five per cent fall in crime across Bridgend and the Vale. These figures are very much a testimony to the hard work and dedication of our officers and staff and I feel privileged to work alongside such colleagues.

"They have made a tremendous difference to the communities of Bridgend and the Vale and I am immensely proud of their achievements over the past year."

She thanked the event sponsors: Best Western Heronston Hotel, Parkdean, Days Rental, The Kitchen Design Studio, Burnett Davies Lettings, Maes Glas Veterinary Group, Vale Resort, Bro Radio FM, and Felicity Jewellers.

THE WINNERS

Bravery – Mark Child and Kristy Evans.

Police Constables Child and Evans disregarded their own safety to rescue a woman from a house fire in Brynheulog, Bridgend.

Customer service – Rebecca Merchant of Bridgend CID.

Detective Constable Merchant has received countless thank-you cards and letters from victims of crime and their families for the outstanding service she provided them while investigating crimes.

Investigator – Andrew Price

Detective Constable Price was described as an outstanding member of Barry CID since 1998, and recently detected a spate of burglaries in Penarth, with the suspects given prison sentences.

Diversity – Fiona Haggerty of Maesteg works in a location which has traditionally had problems with hate crime and vulnerable repeat victims.

She has led on tackling these issues, having put in place numerous supportive and investigative action plans which have seen significant reductions and an increase in tolerance, trust and confidence.

Community Officer – Janine Ireland of Aberkenfig.

An outstanding Police Community Support Officer, who strives to deliver the best possible service to her community. Her positive and professional approach to work continues to make a difference to the communities she serves.

Specials – Daniel Boyle

Special Constable Boyle is a valued and outstanding member of the Bridgend Neighbourhood Policing Team who has shown a total commitment to the communities of Bridgend.

He has regularly requested to work nights on weekends, many of which have included international rugby dates and bank holidays.

Excellence – Mark Rees from Barry.

PC Rees is an outstanding officer who disrupts the lives of local criminals, racking up over 400 arrests in the past three years.

He is a positive role model and his working practices motivate others and he is an excellent example to junior officers within the division.

Leadership – Sue Sidford of the Penarth and Vale Sector

Acting Chief Inspector Sidford showed outstanding leadership of the Public Protection Unit which she managed for five years, creating a culture of excellence.

Lifetime achievement – Nicholas Kihlberg.

Sergeant Kihlberg signed up to the RAF in 1979



ABOVE: members of the 'Extra Mile' Barry volunteers are presented with their awards.



ABOVE: Sgt Nick Kihlberg (right) received a lifetime achievement award.

before joining to South Wales Police in 1996. Since his promotion to the rank of sergeant in 2000 he has served in Barry and Llantwit Major.

He has made an exceptional contribution to the division and the force, inspiring those around him and always leading by example.

New Starter – Megan Hughes (Bridgend and the Vale).

Megan has led change positively and has driven excellent performance in her role as the Investigative Hub manager. She played an instrumental role in the TRICK pilot which has significantly improved customer satisfaction.

Extra Mile – Police Support Volunteers

A group of seven police support volunteers assisted at Barry Island working alongside Barry Neighbourhood Policing Team with the aim of providing reassurance and high visibility.

They have made a positive impression on local traders and their presence has freed up time for local officers to concentrate on issues such as anti social behaviour which is one of the contributory factors in a reduction of anti-social behaviour at Barry Island throughout the summer of 2012 compared to previous years.

Arts festival

THE Barry Arts Festival exhibition at Art Central in Barry was formally opened last weekend by Vale AM Jane Hutt, in the presence of the newly-elected Vale Mayor, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, and Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for the arts.

In opening the exhibition, Ms Hutt praised the work of all the contributors and urged people to support the event. She was then able to present the showpiece wallhanging, depicting local scenes, to Melanie Carter, director of ValePlus and Paul Bumford and Jack Bayley Loyn,

ValePlus members who were part of the project team.

ValePlus, a local charity that provides learning and leisure opportunities for disabled people, played an active part in the festival, contributing to the central piece of the wallhanging.

Melanie Carter thanked all those who contributed to the wallhanging, which will now be displayed in ValePlus at the close of the exhibition, and invited people to attend an open day at ValePlus in High Street in Barry on Friday, June 14.

Town's new orchestra

THE newly-formed Porthcawl Community Orchestra meets on the first, third, (fifth) Sunday of each month, 6pm – 8pm, in Our Lady Star of the Sea church hall, New Road.

The cost is £2 per session, and refreshments are served. Grade 3 standard is desirable. For more information, telephone 07861 600667 or e-mail porthcawl.orchestra@outlook.com. JB

CROWN COURT ROUND-UP

by AJ SICLUNA

Jail for Pencoed woman after brewery theft

A CREDIT controller at a leading Welsh brewery has been jailed for 15 months at Cardiff Crown Court for stealing nearly £61,000 from her employer.

Judge Stephen Hopkins QC said that a probation report on 50-year-old Marion Jenkins indicated "that she had little remorse and also possessed a certain arrogance".

Jenkins, of Woodstock Gardens, Pencoed, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing £60,942 belonging to SA Brain & Co Ltd.

Last May, she was convicted of theft and fraud involving the same company and received a nine-month sentence.

In 1991, said prosecutor Tony Trigg, she appeared at Gloucester Crown Court and received a suspended sentence for stealing £4,000 from another employer.

Mr Trigg said that last June, while serving a sentence for the initial theft from SA Brain, further thefts came to light.

Mr Trigg said that when cash payments were made to the company by smaller businesses, she would "pocket" the money and account for it by moving credit transfers from bigger accounts.

She got away with it, he said, between April 2006 and November 2011, without any of the thefts being discovered.

When arrested, she admitted taking the £60,942.

The total loss to Brains was £73,576. Her solicitor Najem Majid, said she deserved credit for her guilty plea.

"She is the author of her own misfortune. She could have drawn these matters to the attention of the court at the previous hearing.

"She cannot blame anyone else, and is now open about her circumstances.

"She coped with the

previous prison sentence and she will cope again."

Mr Majid said she had hit hard times and struggled to get by.

"But she should not have resorted to crime."

He said she had come to court prepared for immediate prison sentence.

Judge Hopkins said that what Jenkins had done was to "cover up the audit trail".

He said the two thefts from the company had merged.

He added that in the probationary report, she had indicated that because Brains was a large company, they could cope with the loss and she had not spent any of the money on luxuries.

"It has to be said you were in a substantial position of trust," the Judge added.

A community order for Porthcawl man

FOR what was described by a judge at Cardiff Crown Court as "an unpleasant piece of violence," a 21-year-old Porthcawl man has been made subject to a community order for a year.

Window fitter Alexander Nutty of Fenton Place, had admitted assaulting Robert Jones. He was also in breach of a 12-month suspended sentence for possessing mephadrone.

For the assault, he was also ordered to undertake 100 hours unpaid work and to observe a 20-week curfew on Saturdays and Sundays from 9pm-5am with electronic tagging.

He was also ordered to pay his victim £150 compensation plus prosecution costs of £250.

For the breach of the suspended sentence, he was fined £100 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £60.

Judge Philip Richards

said the assault was "an unpleasant piece of violence". He was involved with others and his responsibility was not as great as them, he said.

Prosecutor Gareth James said the assault took place in the centre of Bridgend when Nutty was with two friends.

There was an altercation with three other people, and during the attack, Nutty joined in at the end.

Mr Jones was punched a number of times.

When arrested, Nutty claimed he had been the victim but accepted delivering a number of punches when he saw his friends fighting.

He was said to have previous convictions for disorderly behaviour and possessing mephadrone worth £1,000 with intent to supply in Swansea.

His solicitor Rhodri Chudleigh said the injury the victim received was relatively minor, and Nutty had no previous convictions for violence.

Suspended sentence for Kenfig Hill man

POLICE who were called to a disturbance in a South Cornelly garage searched one of those involved and found him in possession of drugs.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Darren Ward (26) of Commercial Street, Kenfig Hill, admitted being concerned in the supply of cocaine, possessing the drug, producing cannabis, and possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

He was jailed for 48 weeks, suspended for a year, made subject to a supervision order for a year, and directed to carry out 150 hours unpaid work.

In addition, he was made subject to a 16-week 8pm-6am curfew, with electronic tagging and ordered to pay costs of £160.

Judge Philip Richards said it was obvious Ward had been supplying the criminal fraternity, a group who cause great misery.

"Your involvement in drugs revealed features about you which are not just criminal, but worrying."

He added: "Your use of drugs will do you no good at all, and cocaine is one of the hardest drugs on the street."

He said he took into account that Ward was about to be a father, and happily, he was in employment.

Therefore, he said, he was giving him a chance to avoid prison.

Judge Richards warned him: "Lay off drugs, I can't make it clearer than

that."

Prosecutor Gareth James said that one night last August, police were called to a disturbance between Ward and a taxi driver at the Esso garage, South Cornelly.

Ward was searched and officers found cocaine and cannabis on him. His home was searched and there the police found a cannabis plant and a further amount of cannabis.

He told officers that the cocaine was for personal use, as was the cannabis.

But messages on a mobile phone made it clear he was dealing in cannabis and cocaine.

"In essence, he was dealing with no financial gain, but was assisting in the sourcing of drugs," said Mr James.

He added: "He gave others the means to obtain drugs."

Ward was said to have convictions for driving with excess alcohol and causing criminal damage.

His barrister, Owen Williams, said: "This man has a good work ethic, and holds down two jobs."

"There are positive features about him. The offences were triggered by the breakdown of a relationship when his life took a downward turn."

"He realises that what he did was wrong, and these proceedings have focussed his mind. Custody would have a devastating impact."



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A charity track day at Llandow motor circuit near Cowbridge on Wednesday, May 15, raised funds for a popular local cause, the Ed Evans Foundation, and for a national one, Combat Stress, the ex-Services mental welfare society.

The event provided an opportunity for drivers to experience speed in their own cars in a safe environment. Local clients of Combat Stress were invited to take passenger rides in a wide range of cars, which included Ford Escort, Mazda MX5, BMW M3 and a Porsche 91.

The day has been sponsored by Bells Engineering of Slough and organised by Christopher Darwin from Devon.

The Ed Evans Foundation was established in 2006 and has already raised over £130,000 for Cancer Research Wales and other charities. For more information on the foundation, go to: www.edevansfoundation.co.uk.



C5 proves a competent performer

THE size of a boot is extremely important, especially if you have a growing family, like me.

And so it is disappointing that so many hatchbacks and saloons lack in this area. Even the Jaguar XJ, while having a seemingly long one does not have the necessary depth for bulky items.

It is, therefore, refreshing to find that the Citroen C5 has a cavernous boot, large enough to swallow a cumbersome tandem pushchair as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

I am impressed. Externally, the car's rear doesn't look ugly either; in fact, on approaching it early one morning, from the side it looks like a Mercedes C-class thanks to the similar styling.

It is also helpful that the rear seats split and fold as well as featuring a useful hatch for long awkward items to run the length of the car.

When I tested the Jaguar XJ last week I was surprised that this model didn't have split fold rear seats owing to the fact that they were electrically adjustable.

My eyebrows remain suitably raised when I open the doors of the C5 and find the rear windows fitted with sun blinds that easily pull up and down. They effectively shield little passengers Harriett and

Heidi from the bright sunshine that has finally decided to appear during the road test.

Inside there is a feeling of being fairly low to the ground thanks its stance on the road, helping it feel quite sporty. It does seem to be quite a wide car and despite possessing reasonable spatial awareness, I find manoeuvring it a little tricky, although I'm still able to reverse park into a fairly tight spot without trouble.

As regular readers will know, I do suffer from a bad back and when I tested the Jaguar XJ last week I foolishly over-used its seat massage function, which has subsequently resulted in severe back pain.

Exercise, as always, is helping – but this experience has made me even more critical of drivers' seats.

The electrically adjustable and heated one in the Citroen could do with a better lumbar support but that's my only complaint.

The C5 is a capable family car and provides a comfortable ride. However, it is also quite a sporty saloon thanks to a sports mode function, which provides a more punchy performance while a sports suspension switch hardens the ride. The six-speed auto box can also be used as a manual for greater driving pleasure.

A little way into the test, I realise that the striking steering wheel rotates around a fixed column, complete with cruise control and radio functions.

This takes a little getting used to, especially if lazy hands rest on it. I have not driven another car with such a unique steering wheel. It's a good idea because, for instance, in my wife's old Fiat Punto, if you're going round a roundabout and want to turn the volume down it can be tricky with the steering wheel mounted controls invariably being upside down.

The C5 is also equipped with all the luxuries today's motorists would expect including sat nav, all round electric windows and air conditioning.

The rear window coated in early morning dew does take a long time to demist, though. Motorway cruising is made easy by cruise control, which keeps the set speed within one or two mph, regardless of incline.

Over long distances, the adjustable front centre armrest provides added comfort for the driver and front passenger.

Externally, when savouring the stylish C5 from the side there are the smallest welcome hints of the past from the distinctive CX, SM and GS models of the '70s and '80s. Good design does draw on the past, in my opinion.

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS



ABOVE:

The Citroen C5 2.0 HDI 16V Exclusive

Overall, this economical diesel is a competent performer and that cavernous boot scores very highly with me.

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Remembering the heroes of the convoys

DURING this Year of the Convoy, we attempt to reflect on and remember lost and loved ones and the many fallen of the Merchant Naval Service – the bravery of those who kept the wartime supply lines open.

Without such provisions imported, the population would have starved and the country lost. We honour further the many from the Vale and all who sailed from Barry Dock.

During the Year of the Convoy, Arctic Star medals have been presented to veterans at 10 Downing Street and remembrance and tribute has taken place for the Arctic Convoys, with further Arctic Stars received at Loch Ewe, where veterans vowed to continue to seek the Ushakov – Gallantry award, both for survivors and those lost.

The related Armed Forces and Merchant Navy's 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, as part of the Year of the Convoy, has also commenced with events in both London and Londonderry. There has been, and will be, much more going on around the country, with Pembroke Dock, Weymouth and Plymouth among others taking part.

More locally: the Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Service at the Merchant Seafarers Memorial, Cardiff Bay, took place on Saturday, May 18, at 11am (a Battle of the Atlantic Remembrance).

The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island opened on Wednesday, May 22, for those wishing to visit or record memories with the centre's recording equipment.

A red ensign, and other MN artifacts and display material, ensure



ABOVE: The Merchant Navy monument in Cardiff Bay.

a perfect place to reflect. Barry is to pay its respect to those of all convoys and will ensure the red ensign of the Merchant Navy is flown today (May 23) at the Memorial Hall.

Associated forces and national flags, including the red duster, will be flown at the Vale Council offices during daytime the same day.

Members of the Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Barry branch will lay a wreath at the MN Monument at 11am on

May 23.

The combined forces events culminate in Liverpool over the weekend with more national commemorations (May 24–26).

The local Heritage Centre at Barry Island Railway station will again be open to visitors on May 26, a perfect opportunity to bring along and record MN memorabilia.

The museum will continue to open for further events during the year of the convoy 2013.

JIM GREENAWAY



ABOVE: The Merchant Navy Memorial in Barry.

SPOOKY TALES with Hayley Williams

PHANTOMS ALSO ENJOY THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY!

The Month of May
THE colourful month of May is named after the Greek goddess of fertility, Maia, and its traditions date back to the Pagan rituals relating to the last month of the spring season. May has two bank holidays, the first being May Day (Belatine) which was a celebration of Celtic traditions where bonfires were lit to mark the beginning of summer.

May Day, commemorated on the first Monday in May was designated a bank holiday in 1978.

Whitsun and Whit Monday, however, fall at the end of May, where fêtes, fairs, pageants, parades, the consumption of Whitsun ales and Morris dancing were all part of the festivities.

CELEBRATIONS

These were days of celebration where young men and women danced on the village green with a decorated felled tree (usually birch) at the centre of the festival.

Branches were cut off the tree and the trunk decorated with coloured ribbons tied from the top. Whit Monday was declared a holiday in 1871 when an Act of Parliament was passed.

Whitsun (Whitsunday or Whit) is traditionally the Christian festival of Pentecost, the 7th Sunday after Easter, which has some similar traditions to the feasting of May Day.

During the Middle Ages, holidays involved Morris dancing and villagers would collect blossoming flowers and branches to decorate the maypole.

A piper would then play tunes for them to dance around it, wearing colourful clothing and belts. Today, the costume is more elaborate, with white clothing and a red sash.

Whitsun was symbolised by the dove during the Middle Ages where these birds of peace were taken to churches throughout the land to be blessed. People from this era often carved out wooden doves or even created birds using the art of paper folding, or origami.

Rose petals would also be collected for the occasion to shower the clergy during the reading of the story of Pentecost. The ancient flower of columbine (which is Latin for dove) is also a symbol of the month of May.

Whitsun is believed to date back to the 12th century, where carvings of The Green Man would mysteriously appear in churches throughout the British Isles, as green was said to be the colour of life.

The Green Man was also believed to be the God of Woodlands, so he was obviously an ancient 'God' portraying the beliefs of its time.

Also on Whit Sunday, keepers of lighthouses would illuminate their buildings recognising the symbol of fire, another custom of its time.

Welsh folklore tales maintain that fairies dance around the fairy ring at dusk on Whit Sunday, and any witnesses to this silent action are believed to obtain good luck for the year ahead. This tale is another slant from legends of Mabinogion, which means tales of youth in the Welsh language, and have been passed down through time.

WHEELS ON FIRE

Wheels of fire were rolled down the hillside, and livestock would be guided through the flames as a sign of purification, a custom which is now resigned to history books. Another belief involved Druids worshipping trees as a religious ritual.

If hares are found close to your home, they are deemed as witches in disguise, and luck would never cross your path for the year ahead, especially if they were killed, another belief concerning the month of May.

History also has interesting facts concerning events surrounding the month of May from a bygone era. For instance, on May 8, 1945, VE Day (Victory in Europe) was celebrated, the Roman god Mercury (son of Zeus) marked his birthday on May 6, and the more macabre events included the burning at the stake of Joan of Arc on the 30th in 1431, and the death of King Arthur in 542 on the same date.

The ghostly figure of a lady dressed in a long flowing gown and presenting herself with long scraggly hair has often been associated with the month of May.

She is chased by riders on white horses thundering through villages to capture her. But who could this maiden be, and why would she have to flee from a supposed cavalry?

SINGING IN SILENCE

A re-enactment of a mediaeval (or possibly Roman) feast occurs late at night on the evening of the third Tuesday in May where a phantom scene of unrecognisable people seem to sing, dance and huddle around a small bonfire on hillsides around the countryside, yet these actions are said to be performed in silence.

Could the people of yesteryear be unwilling to abandon their celebrations from the Christian calendar?

Phantom officers wearing military uniform have been reported to patrol the area of their old base at St Athan at dusk throughout the month of May, yet no explanation can be found for their appearance.

Could the participants of World War Two be reminding the living of their bravery during such a fierce battle, or just phantoms revisiting a barracks which celebrated the end of the War?

But fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Two Blue Flags for Porthcawl



ABOVE:

Lesley Jones, chief executive, Keep Wales Tidy; Alun Davies, Minister for Natural Resources and Food; Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing; Adrian Roberts, Bridgend County Borough Council.

THE quality of Porthcawl's beaches at Rest Bay and Trecco Bay has been recognised with both retaining Blue Flag status and winning a Seaside Award from 'Keep Wales Tidy'.

They were among the award-winning beaches from across the country being celebrated in a special ceremony at Rest Bay with Alun Davies, the Minister for Natural Resources and Food.

Organisers 'Keep Wales Tidy' announced that a total of 33 beaches and five marinas in Wales have been awarded the coveted Blue Flag this year in honour of their high standards of water quality, environmentally sustainable management, safety measures, cleanliness, and excellent facilities.

This is the 13th consecutive year that Rest Bay has earned the right to fly the Blue Flag, and the ninth for Trecco Bay. They are also among the 107 top beaches that are able to fly the distinctive yellow and blue

Seaside Award as recognition for their standard of bathing water.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "These awards are more than just accolades to boast of or flags to fly – they symbolise the huge amount of effort which goes into making our coastal areas clean, green and safe."

"We are fortunate to have some outstanding beaches in Wales, and BCBC is particularly proud that both Rest Bay and Trecco Bay in Porthcawl are among those receiving recognition; not least because the criteria for achieving Blue Flag status has become more stringent."

"This really is fantastic news for the many families and surfers who use these beaches all year round. "Whilst Blue Flag is an environmental award, it also makes a significant contribution towards our tourism industry and will ensure that visitors from across the world keep coming back to Wales in the years to come."

SHARE LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS



ABOVE: Last year's charity ride in aid of Glaze

Glaze
YE Old Trailblazers – 36 cyclist, all friends of former Welsh International rugby player, Ray Giles are off on another **Marathon Bike Ride** in aid of Glaze Prostate Cymru.

On June 14–16 they will be cycling from Glan Clwyd Hospital, Rhyl, via Caernarfon, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, the Millennium Trail to Swansea, Port Talbot and finishing at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

They are being sponsored by Peter Dennis of PD Travel and will be supported by three vans with six drivers donated on behalf of Burnt Tree Van Hire by James Butler and one van donated by Keith Mort of K & M Windows.

Thanks to the massive effort of all the riders they raised a magnificent £1,800 last year. With your support, they are hoping to do even better this year. For more information regarding this event or to make a donation, ring Ray Giles on 07791 250308.

Mynydd Cynffig Junior School

PUPIL of the week:

Congratulations to the following pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Will Jones – class 1, Tara Bennett – class 2, Joshua Urch – class 3, Brandon Gtsham – class 4, Niamh O'Halloran – class 5, Mark Underwood and Emily Walters – class 6 and Olivia Evans and Amy Ruck – class 7.

The headteacher's award went to Ben Evans – class 6 and Holly Lewis – class 7.

Special lunch: Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour, including politeness to both staff



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

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E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

and fellow pupils during lunchtimes last week: Megan Rees, Dylan Lightwood, Alex Foote-Bruce, Mia Lunn, Kieran Thompson, Charlotte Edmunds, Dafydd Jones, Georgia Coleman, Paige Cochrane, Emmi Joy, Ben Mulholland and Eryn-Mae Franklin.

Sports day: will take place this afternoon starting at 1.30 pm. Why not go along and cheer all those taking part and make it a great sporting occasion?

Kenfig Hill Wellbeing Centre
Activities being organised by Mental Health Matters at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, from 1pm–5pm on Wednesday, May 29, include a dance workshop with Valley and Vale from 2pm–3pm; and arts and crafts from 3pm–4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon when everyone is invited to relax in a friendly environment with a cup of coffee and/or join in the activities.

SHOUT forum

Kenfig Hill Shout are holding their next meeting on **Tuesday, May 28** in **Theo's Charity Shop, Kenfig Hill, from 2pm–4pm.**

The speaker will be from Trading Standards. For further information about the activities of Kenfig Hill Shout, telephone Stan Rumble on 01656 741203.

Farewell rehearsal

MEMBERS of the Bridgend Male Choir recently bade farewell to their principal accompanist for over six years – **Laura Smith**, who had joined the choir when it was directed by its late musical director **John Jenkins**.

Laura's musicianship was highly valued by all. She played diligently during rehearsals, and it is not always easy to accompany the chorists when they are being taught a new piece of music.

She also played for many of the guest artists who appeared with the choir over the years and will be much missed, but the choir wish her all the best in her musical career.

At present the choir is busy rehearsing for the Anglo Welsh Festival, which takes place on Saturday June 1 in Birmingham town hall, and in St David's Hall, Cardiff on Saturday June 8. There are a number of Welsh choirs involved which include Biddulph; Bridgend; Canoldir; Cardiff Arms Park; Dowlais; Mynyddislwyn; Oxford Welsh, Penybontfawr and Pontardulais. Tickets are available from both venues.

Fairtrade School PUPILS at Mynydd Cynffig infants school have become the latest in Bridgend county borough to become a 'Fairtrade' school.

The pupils have displayed a great deal of enthusiasm in the classrooms when discussing the virtues of spreading the message on how to support 'Fairtrade'.

Mynydd Cynffig Infants can now proudly fly the Fairtrade flag, and will hopefully inspire other schools to join them. To mark their award, the school will soon be receiving a bag of Fairtrade sports balls, so that they can play fairly too.

Mynydd Cynffig Infants School's head teacher, Amanda Stanford, would like to thank the parents for the support they have given in helping the school to achieve 'Fairtrade' status. This June will mark five years since Wales made history and became the first ever Fairtrade Nation, while Bridgend County became a Fairtrade borough in July 2010.

Choir's AGM
OGMORE Valley male voice choir, recently returned from a tour of Catalonia, held their AGM at Canolfan Bethlehem.

Gwyn Roberts was elected as chairman. Re-elected were Trefor Thomas, John Jones and Phil Davies as treasurer, general secretary and functions secretary respectively.

The following members were also elected to serve on the committee: Paul Evans, Alan Evans, David Williams, Peter Morgan, Jeff Roberts, Byron Evans and Robert Davies.

During the proceedings, regrets were expressed at the sad loss this year of stalwart choir members, Alf Warner, Cliff White, Jenkin Davies and Derek Devnett.

Treasurer Trefor Thomas presented the auditor's report item by item and invited questions from members. In his report, the treasurer pointed out that the choir had assisted in raising over £3,400 for charities locally and further afield.

The chair, Gwyn Roberts, officially welcomed new accompanist Gareth Waite, who was proving to be an asset to this

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of

The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



busy choir, as were a number of new chorists.

Several comments were made from the floor on the enjoyable tour which, apart from the successful and delightful concerts, had proven to be a good bonding venture for the members, and everyone was looking forward to the next tour.

The committee expressed its thanks to BAVO for the grant towards the purchase of a new portable piano.

The choir rehearses every Thursday at 7pm at Canolfan Bethlehem, Commercial St, Ogmere Vale, new members are always welcome.

Opportunities for youngsters
ON June 22-23 there is an eisteddfod at Treorchy Primary School, Glyncoli Road, Treorchy.

On Saturday June 22, there will be heats for piano and musical instrumentalists, and on Sunday June 23 it will be for vocalists.

The finalists will be given the chance of appearing in a special concert displaying their talents in the Parc and Dare Theatre, Treorchy in September.

If any parent, private teacher or school is interested they can obtain entry forms on 07791 375519, or e-mail rhianon-williams@yahooc.co.uk. The competitions are open to anyone from the south Wales area.

Crucial Crew
YEAR-SIX children from Tondy Primary School have been learning how to keep safe at the launch of Crucial Crew 2013.

Co-ordinated by Bridgend county borough council, together with a number of partner agencies including South Wales Police, South Wales Fire Service, Food Standards Agency and Red Cross, Crucial Crew helps children to recognise everyday health and safety issues, learn how to behave in different situations, and understand crime prevention.

Chapel anniversary
HOREB Baptist Chapel, located in Dinam Close, is the last religious establishment to still hold services in Nantymoel.

Members of the public are invited to attend the annual anniversary services in the chapel on Sunday, May 26 at 11am and 6pm.

Former Horeb Pastor, Bro. Bill Hughes, now 90, will be one of the featured speakers.

It is hoped that people who have attended the chapel in the past will bring old photographs or memorabilia connected to Horeb Baptist Chapel and share their memories during the fellowship time.

Llynfi choir in London

CÔR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley ladies choir) were the only Welsh representatives in the recent London Sangerstevne International Choral Festival.

The weekend was a great experience. When the coach arrived it was the Welsh Coach of the year with comfortable white leather seats and a glass roof. A total of 26 choir members plus family and friends travelled to the hotel in London.

The first concert was in Kensington. Choirs were from Northern Ireland, Sardinia and London. The standard of singing was excellent, and the ladies choir were proud to receive a standing ovation.

On Saturday evening, there was some scheming going on as Paul Deenik-Bradley, the musical director, had let the choir know that he was going to propose to Laura Smith, the accompanist. So everyone assembled in a local Wetherspoons pub for Paul to pop the question! Laura was delighted.

Once again, the audience were treated to some remarkable choirs from Sardinia, Estonia and Italy. The ladies were the last to sing, and the singing with the musical accompaniment was extra special that evening, and once again the choir had a wonderful reception with three standing ovations and loud foot tapping.

The chorists would like to thank the 'Co-operative Community Fund' for providing funds so that the choir could purchase fleece jackets with the choir's logo incorporated, which they all wore on this special weekend.

The choir likes its Welsh name but chorists do not have to be fluent in Welsh to sing with the choir and would welcome any new members to its rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at Garth Celtic Club.

Nynsawdre Comprehensive
FOR any former pupils who were born in 1961/2, it is intended to hold a reunion on Friday, May 31 in Sarn Social Club.

If interested, please telephone Angela Warren nee Powell on 01656 745106.

Roman history
IN St Tyfodwg's Church, Glynogwr, Friday May 24 at 7pm, Mr Howard Williams a local amateur historian will be giving a talk on Roman history in the area, and the public will be given the opportunity to see, handle and possibly buy centuries old artefacts.

PROUD DAY FOR CLUB'S NEW SKIPPER DARRYL

THE April AGM at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club marked a very proud moment for the incoming captain, Darryl James.

Darryl joined Pyle and Kenfig as a fresh-faced junior in January 1989. He has represented the club at junior and first team levels, and is currently a member of the second team playing off a handicap of three.

Darryl lists his most memorable golfing achievements as

reaching the club championship final in 1997, winning the order of merit in 2010 and winning the Graham Bowl knockout competition three times.

Darryl took over the reins from Barrie Edwards and began his captaincy with a drive-in.

Men's competition results were as follows: Cocks of the North winter league winners, Geraint Evans and Geoff Vincent; runners-up Russ Adams and Paul Lewis.

Captain's Charity Cup winners,

Russ Adams and Paul Franklin; Club Foursomes Shield winners, Mark and Tom Furneaux; Gerald Price Cup winner, Mark Coleman; Dr Richard Jones Trophy winner, Graham Finn; and the Nash Cup winner, Justin Reed.

Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club welcomes all golfers and the course is open all year round.
Contact www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk or secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk



ABOVE: Darryl James receives the Sker Salver from Barrie Edwards.

TELL US YOUR LOCAL NEWS!

email your news, and other items of local interest, to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Penybont Lifeguards clear 120 bags of litter from beach for Clean Coast Week



COMMUNITIES across Wales joined the environmental charity Keep Wales Tidy last week (May 13-19) for Clean Coasts Week.

Penybont Lifeguards (pictured above) did more than their fair share when they organised a cleanup at Ogmere-by-Sea beach last Saturday.

More than 150 members and local volunteers took part in the event and collected 120 bags of litter.

Nev White, Penybont Lifeguards treasurer, told The GEM: "Keep Wales Tidy asked us to get involved, as they know we regularly run similar beach cleans."

"Our beach at Ogmere receives floating debris from the Bristol Channel and the River Ogmere. This means there's

always plenty of rubbish to clear.

"Penybont Lifeguards and local volunteers were fantastic and got stuck in while being entertained by our friends at Bro Radio, who came along to broadcast the event live on-air, and then everyone enjoyed a free barbecue after the work was done."

The Wales-wide Clean Coasts Week campaign was sponsored by McDonald's and staff from local restaurants worked alongside community groups, schools and businesses throughout Wales to make sure that

local residents and visitors can enjoy a beautiful, litter free coastline.

The Lonely Planet travel guide voted the Welsh coastline as the 'best region' on Earth to visit in 2012.

It's a year since the opening of The Wales Coast Path, which stretches for 870 miles and provides a continuous walking route around the whole of Wales.

Wales is the only country in the world where it is possible to walk the entire length of the coastline.

Keep Wales Tidy chief executive Lesley Jones said: "The coastline is very important for Wales as it can boost local economies and the tourism industry and allows us to showcase our beautiful country."

"I'm glad that people from across Wales joined us to spend a few hours at their nearest coastal area to ensure that locals and visitors can continue to enjoy our natural surroundings."

"Thank you to all who took part."

Local Bridge player leads local team to national victory

BRIDGEND Bridge Club member and local Bridge teacher Mary Moore recently led her team to victory in The Webber Cup, the Welsh National Teams Championship.

Needless to say, the standard of competition was of the highest at that level, and Mary's triumph was all the more remarkable in that, over two days and 90 boards of Bridge, her team managed to win every match they played, leading from start to finish of the competition.

In the process of winning this event, Mary, who has represented Wales in international matches, accumulated enough points to reach grandmaster status, a significant milestone for a Bridge player and an indication of playing ability of the highest standard.

Mary is one of several grandmasters who play regularly in Bridgend and other local clubs, and their presence undoubtedly stimulates club members and raises the general standard of play in the area.

It is good to see people who have reached the top of the game prepared to teach and help others to enjoy a highly social pastime which, while challenging intellectually, allows participants to pursue a competitive game in a friendly atmosphere with no hindrance as a result of age or dis-



ABOVE: Steve Burgoyne, chairman of Bridgend Bridge Club, congratulates Mary Moore.

ability.

If you would like to find out more about playing Bridge locally, please visit the Bridgend Bridge Club website or telephone Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968.

PRODUCTION COMPANY LOOKS FOR TRAINEES

A BRIDGEND-based young people's film production company is looking for eight aspiring location managers to join its 2013 training scheme this summer.

Trainees will have the opportunity to work alongside a professional crew and under a professional mentor, while helping to lead the location department on a short film for broadcast on BBC Wales and S4C.

It's My Shout's training programme will also include masterclasses with the location managers behind some of TV's biggest drama series - including *Da Vinci's Demons*, *Sherlock* and *Being Human* - as well as visits to local sets, and will teach the skills needed to begin a successful career in Wales' thriving creative industries.

This training is being carried out as part of Creative Skillset Cymru's Skills for the Digital Economy programme. The programme is backed with £2.7million from the European Social Fund through the Welsh Government, with the rest of the funds provided by Welsh broadcaster S4C, the trade association for independent producers in film and television in Wales, Teleduwr Annibynnol Cymru (TAC) and Creative Skillset Cymru.

For more information on eligibility and application procedures, visit www.itsmyshout.co.uk. Now in its 10th year, It's My Shout is well-known for its national summer film and television training scheme. The scheme works directly with BBC Wales to provide opportunities for new talent throughout Wales to showcase their abilities on the production of short films.

Working with a wide variety of education, community, and industry partners across Wales, It's My Shout provides quality training and exciting creative experiences to individuals hoping to break into the media industry. Its productions have been broadcast on ITV Wales, S4C as well as BBC Wales, and many have gone on to win a host of awards, including five Bafta Cymru awards and nominations.

Since it was established in 2003, the scheme has successfully nurtured the talent and launched the careers of many actors, directors, writers and production crew including Lawrence Olivier Award-winning Aneurin Barnard.

Aneurin said: "The It's My Shout training scheme gives you invaluable experience and knowledge of how a film set really works, and gives you the sort of experience you wouldn't be able to get elsewhere".

Good start for the under-12s

BRIDGEND Town Cricket Club under-12s started the season away to Tata Steel.

In very cold and windy conditions, the pressure was on as the under-11s, under-14s and under-16s had all posted wins in their opening fixtures.

Tata Steel won the toss and elected to bat. The Bridgend attack stuck to their task admirably in the conditions restricting Tata to 256 for 4 (pairs format).

Bridgend wickets were taken by M

Padmanabhan (two), O Johns (one) and J Biebrach (one).

In what turned out to be a very close match, Bridgend won by eight runs, finishing on 264 for 3.

The pick of the Bridgend batsmen were the last pair of O Johns (seven) and O Lewis (six) who saw Bridgend home in failing light.

Team: E Biebrach (captain), J Biebrach, A Dalton, H Evans (Wk), C Hart, J Hayes, O Johns, O Lewis, K Metha, M Padmanabhan.

JH

AM starts high street consultation exercise



ABOVE: Suzy Davies AM in Guttridge's Florists.

TRADERS in Porthcawl are being asked for their views on how to revive the town centre by Regional AM Suzy Davies.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, has been calling at shops to chat to shopkeepers, asking for their opinions about how the high street can be regenerated.

One of the shops she called at was Guttridge's Florists in John Street, where Alison Guttridge explained that the business was originally started by her grandfather, with her mother Tina running it for many years.

Mrs Davies also spoke to other traders.

"What came across is the fact that small shops are struggling because of high business rates and rents and also a lack of free or cheap car parking for customers."

"It is also apparent that pedestrianisation has driven many shoppers away from our high streets nationally and into the arms of the multi-nationals at shopping centres and out-of-town malls, where there is abundant and free parking."

"The Welsh Conservatives have recently pub-

lished a document called 'A Vision for the High Street' which we are hoping that the Welsh Government will adopt in part or completely.

"But we do not have all the answers, which is why it is important to get out and about and talk to shopkeepers and their customers about what's needed."

"Many of our town centres have been badly hit by the recession and there are increasing numbers of empty shops - which then deter shoppers, so it's a vicious circle that must be broken if our high streets are to survive."

She added: "Town centres are so much more than places to shop - they are also places where people meet each other, keep in touch and pick up the latest news or gossip."

"Community spirit is fostered there, as well as a sense of belonging and if they die, Wales will be a poorer place."

Anyone wishing to pass on their views should contact suzy.davies@wales.gov.uk or go to www.yourvoiceinthegassembly.co.uk/highstreet, or write to her at 1a Station Hill, Bridgend, CF31 1EA.



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Mercifully, after much suffering, Eddie of Old Mill Road, Barry, passed away on Tuesday May 14th, 2013 at the Barry Hospital, aged 89 years.
Dear husband of Mary, brother of Ivor and the late Peggy and Mavis, a brother in law, uncle and great uncle to all his nieces and nephews.
Will be sadly missed.
Resting at AG Adams and Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Tuesday May 28th, 2013 at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm.
Family flowers only - donations if desired to Cancer Research Wales, Velindre Hospital, Whitechurch, Cardiff CF14 2TL, or handed to the Funeral Director at Adams.
The family would wish to thank the doctors, nurses and staff at the Sam Davies Ward, Barry Hospital for their care and attention.

Tobin Gillian (Nee Hopkins)

Funeral Service and Cremation to take place on Friday, 24th May 2013 at 11.15am at Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Tobin Gillian

Much loved partner to Roy and adorable pet dog Pepper.
Suddenly and tragically, will be sadly missed.
Rest in heaven.
xxx

ADBY Mavis Sarah

Alan, Julie and family would like to thank all who attended the funeral service on Tuesday, 14th May 2013 at Ewenny Priory Church and to everyone who sent flowers, messages of sympathy and condolence. Special thanks to Reverend Hazel Norfolk for guidance and conducting a very personal service, Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors for direction, help and support and to the staff at Comtown Cricket Club for providing warm hospitality. Special thanks to Jen, Deb, Margaret and friends for assisting with excellent catering.

HUGHES Aeron

ex Beach Café Llantwit Major
Albert and Family would like to thank all relatives and friends who attended the Funeral along with those who sent us so many cards, flowers and messages of support.
A special thank you to Reverend Malcolm Davies for conducting the service, Thelma from Rhosoe for the beautiful flowers and John James for the funeral arrangements and organising donations to Holme Towers, Marie Curie Centre Penarth.
Aeron will be missed by all.

ALEXANDER Margaret Elizabeth 24th May 2012

There is an agonizing void where you should be, Maggie, but you left me 42 years of amazing memories to help sustain me.
There are no words adequate to express how much I loved you - so I'll just say "be seeing you, old lady!"

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Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Friday May 24, service and interment 1.30pm. at Marcross Church. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

Wedding Announcement

Congratulations
to our darling daughter
Rhian Orchard
and son-in-law to be
Julian Griffiths
who will be celebrating their wedding on 25 May 2013 in Scotland.
We would also like to wish them all the love, luck and happiness they deserve on their special day and on their new journey together.
Sending loads of love xx
Mum, Dad and all your family and friends xxx

COLLINS (Cooker) John

Very much loved son of Alan and Joan and special brother to Debbie. He was a loving father to Cath, Alex, Lauren and Hayley and grandad to Ava and Jac and a favourite uncle to Sarah Jane.
Funeral Service in St. Illtud's Church Llantwit Major on Friday, 31st May 2013 at 1pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Flowers may be sent to W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, 01446 792489.

Birthdays

EVAN PARLE Teenager!
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WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN INSPECTOR APPOINTED BY THE WELSH MINISTERS WILL ATTEND AT ROOM F38, DOCK OFFICE, BARRY DOCK, BARRY CF63 4RT ON
TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2013 AT 10.00 am
TO HOLD A PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY AND TO SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINE: WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 - VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011 - FOOTPATH 75, BARRY
The effect of the Order, if confirmed as made, will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding to them the footpath commencing from Point A (NGR 308870 168313) on the Order Map at Ffordd Cwm Cid, following a 5 metre wide tarmac track in a westerly direction, turning west south west after 47 metres and southwest after a further 69 metres, then continuing for 59 metres until the path ends the tarmac track at Point B (NGR 309716 168253) and enters into a tarmac forecourt. The path proceeds south east through the forecourt with a width of 5 metres for a distance of 11 metres to Point C (NGR 309724 168246). From Point C, the path then adopts a south westerly alignment for 29 metres proceeding with a width of 1.2 metres over the hard standing of an underground sewage works to terminate where it crosses into the boundary of Parkberry Country Park at Point D (NGR 309704 168222).
The purpose of the Inquiry is to enable the Inspector to hear representation from those persons who have objected to the Order. Any other interested persons may also attend and be allowed to speak at the discretion of the Inspector.
Helen May
Authorised by the Welsh Ministers
WE WELCOME COMMUNICATIONS IN WELSH AND ENGLISH

Parkwood Porthkerry 5 brings out top class athletes, and Sunday fun run competitors

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

The 'Parkwood Porthkerry 5' took place on May 12 with serious athletes and more relaxed fun runners taking on the five-mile challenge.

Participants ranged in age from teenagers up to more mature runners.

GEM photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to take these images of the competitors.



Rhose paddlers battle wind and tide in Surf Ski Race



ABOVE: Kathryn Gardner, William Parker, Lauren Blake and Kelsea Peterson.



Bernie Phipps and Mandy Lane.



ABOVE: Sue Blake and Paul Gardner.

A TOTAL of 39 paddlers competed in the 34th Rhose Ski Race, hosted by Rhose Lifeguards recently, when a steady south-westerly breeze and incoming tide made for a race of two halves.

A hard upwind paddle against the tide was followed by a swift downwind paddle with some runners caught.

Many thanks to all those who took part, helped with the organisation and the accompanying 'fun day' for the kids. Special thanks to Andy and Michele Wall and Steph Williams for organising the barbecue, raffle and kids' games, Simon Perry and the SLISA Wales IRB Crews.

RESULTS:

Under-16 boys 6km: Keland Pinnemore - Pen-y-Bont; William Parker - Rhose; Lewis Crompton - Pen-y-Bont.

Under-16 girls 6km: Kelsea Peterson - Rhose; Leah Harris - Pen-y-Bont; Tayla Edgerton - Rhose.

Under-19 boys 8km: Ashley Lewis - Pen-y-Bont; Tom Parker - Rhose.

Under-19 girls 8km: Kathryn Gardner - Rhose; Lauren Blake - Rhose; Kirby Redrup - Rhose.

Open men 12km: Sam Moore - Sker.

Open ladies 8km: Riah Spickett - Rhose.

Masters men 8km: Craig Robinson - Pen-y-Bont; Simon Parker - Rhose; Mike Childs -

Sker. Masters ladies 8km: Liz Wong - Rhose; Andrea Pinnemore - Pen-y-Bont.

Open double 8km: Sarah Bryant and Steve Baker - Rhose; Sue Blake and Paul Gardner - Rhose; Mandy Lane and Bernie Phipps - Rhose.

Overall Results: Rhose 93pts; Pen-y-Bont 46pts; Sker 12pts.

JF



ABOVE: Steve Baker and Sarah Bryant.

VALE BRASS BAND FINISHES FOURTH

AFTER weeks of rehearsals, the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band entered the south east Wales BBA contest at Ebbw Vale on Saturday (May 18) with high hopes.

The standard was high, and they were pleased to secure fourth place and later learned they were just one point away from third.

The next contest is west Wales BBA at Burry Port on October 5, and a south east Wales BBA at Blaenavon on November 23.

TUDOR MAKES A BOLD BID FOR WELSH TITLE

by
BRIAN LEE

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor is making a bold bid for the Welsh Point-To-Point Riders' Championship and last Saturday at the Gelligaer Farmers meeting, which saw the end of the season in south Wales, he had a double with *Howya Buddy* (confined) and *Rosies Peacock* (mixed open).

Howya Buddy, who was winning for the third time on the bounce, clocked a time which was some seven seconds faster than when the eight-year-old had won the restricted at the Tredegar Farmers a fortnight earlier.

Making every post a winning one, *Howya Buddy* won by 12 lengths from the favourite, *Dunraven Prince*, with *Classic Chance* (Rachel Leyshon) a further 25 lengths away in third place.

Rosies Peacock led three fences from the finish to beat the pacemaking *Midnight Diamond* (Matthew Barber) by three lengths.

Homebred *Rosies Peacock*,

who was chalking-up his 17th success, could now go for the John Corbet Cup at Stratford on June 9, although a run at the Pembrokehire at Trecoed on Whit-Monday is not out of the question.

This season Tudor, who won the national title in 2006/2007, has been riding regularly in Wales for the first time since he started race riding and Bradley Gibbs, who notched-up his 19th winner of the season when winning the eight-year-olds and over maiden on *Dustara*, is his main rival for the title.

Caroline Marles's homebred *Dustara*, who came home 10 lengths ahead of Tudor's mount *Karazaaf*, looked at one time destined for the knackers yard, owing to a number of back and feet problems.

However, a lot of tender loving care and patience by his connections has given his trainer former Welsh champion rider Rhys Hughes, assistant trainer to Tim Vaughan, his first winner between-the-flags.

John Miles's *Gallaflynn*, who

made all to win at Howick at the end of April, won the members in similar style under his trainer Matthew Barber, coming home two-and-a-half-lengths clear from *Mac Halen* (Charlotte Prichard).

Keith Prichard's five-year-old bay mare *Watch The Birdie*, who had lost her maiden tag a fortnight earlier at the Tredegar when racing over two-and-a-half miles, had little difficulty in staying the extra half mile when beating the favourite *Always Archie* (Bradley Gibbs) by eight lengths in the restricted.

The four, five, six and seven year olds open maiden went to Robert Williams's *Hunky Dorey* who, ridden by his son Nick, scored by four lengths from *Danny Maggs* (James Tudor) after making most of the running.

Nick said: "When he came to us he was a bit of a lunatic and no-one could ride him. However, he has chilled out a lot now and he is a welcome member of Dad's Pony Trekking Centre at Ogmogre-by-Sea."

"He doesn't really like the company of other horses. That's why I got away from the others at the start."

'Dinxsy's Day' charity football tournament

A charity football day is being held in memory of David 'Dinxsy' Coombes who passed away in September 2003

David played in the local Barry league and for Llandrindod Wells. He was a Manchester United fan and loved football.

The Dinxsy's Day Football Tournament is being held at Buttrills Field this Sunday, May 26. Registration takes place at 10am with the tournament kicking off at 11am. Teams can turn up on the day.

His mother Kim said: "Last year 21 teams entered, including two girls teams who we hope will come again this year."

"There will also be a competition to see who can hit the crossbar from the halfway line and a very generous cousin of David has put up a prize of £50 for the winner."



ABOVE:

Last year's winners with David's family, and Jack the loyal tournament mascot, who has now sadly passed away.

"David's grandparents will be manning the barbeque and drinks stall and we will be selling raffle tickets."

"All proceeds will go to charity this year - Macmillan Nurses, British Heart foundation and animal welfare"

charities.

"Last year we raised about £500 and hope to do even better this year."

Kim added: "We have already had some teams call to register, any one wishing to register a team, 7-a-side,

men, women or mixed, and over 16 years of age, can ring on 01446 404679, or they can register 10.00a.m. on the day."

"It is a fund raising event and so the players pay £1 each to play."

Tae Kwon Do Battle of Wales

THE Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do took a small contingent of new and experienced competitors to Aberdare to compete in the Battle of Wales, hosted by Rob Taylor.

The event started with traditional forms where Cody Jacobsen took first place, Cian Allen took second and joint third went to Thea Cunningham and Maddison Allen.

Next up were the juniors, with Bradley Halford taking first, Thomas Haysham second and Lucia Cunningham third. Last up were the seniors, with Matthew Bennett taking second.

Once the traditional forms were

completed, all the point and continuous sparring sections got under way.

There were two students in the final of the peewee point sparring section. In a close fight, Thea Cunningham took first place, and Maddison Allen second.

Evan Baron fought his way through his category to come away with first place, while Bradley Halford took second, and Thomas Haysham, Matthew Bennett and Cian Allen taking third place in their respective categories.

In the continuous sparring sections, Morganne Gomez Jones and Thomas Haysham were first, and Evan Baron took his second first place of the day.

Having fought extremely hard in both his point and continuous sparring section, Jake Quigley showed his all-round improvement and is one to look out for in the future. Unfortunately, Mason Blackley lost out in the first rounds to the eventual winner of both his point and continuous sparring sections.

Overall, it was a good day with a total of 21 medals; seven gold, six silver and eight bronze. The club has one more tournament before they compete at the World games in Dublin.

For further information about Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do, telephone 01446 406372.

RT

Vale Schools Under-11s retain DC Thomas Cup at Millennium Stadium



ABOVE: The Vale squad and coaches celebrate after their 7 try to 2 victory over Newport Schools.

ON SATURDAY, May 11, the Vale of Glamorgan Schools U-11s retained the DC Thomas Cup with a 7 tries to 2 victory over Newport Schools at the Millennium Stadium in an excellent display of running rugby.

Vale Schools, in their commemorative golden strip, looked sharp as they kicked off in brilliant sunshine.

The opening minutes were frenetic and the Vale had two scoring chances denied by some good Newport defence.

However, it did not take long before the Vale had something to show for their dominance. A sharp break down the right flank by captain fantastic Iestyn Galton

was followed by a flick inside to full back Ben Batten who powered over for the first score.

The Vale scored again soon after when outside half Jamie Howells spotted the narrowest of gaps and sidestepped his way over.

Newport to their credit did respond strongly and crossed the line for a try of their own - this just stung the Vale into action and 3 clinical tries before half time by Lewys Williams, Ed Thomas and Mason Grady put the half time score at 5 tries to 1.

As the game moved into the second half, Vale were at their rampant best, their marauding forwards and electric backs combining time and time again to rip Newport Schools to shreds.

Rhys Gentles crossed twice in

the second half to round off fantastic team tries. The final score was a richly deserved victory by 7 tries to 2.

The significance of winning this national trophy for the second time in two years should not be underestimated, the Vale had never won this trophy until last year, so to win it and retain it is beyond everyone's wildest dreams.

The A team have enjoyed a fantastic season, losing only the first game and winning the next 16.

Coach Duncan Mottram said: "We're absolutely over the moon, this is just reward for the hard work put in by both the players and coaching staff over the season."

Llantwit lady bowlers win on all three rinks

LLANTWIT Major Ladies bowls players had their Cowbridge Shield Match postponed because of the rain on May 14.

But on Thursday the sun came out and they were able to play their league match against Cadoxton. Llantwit won on all rinks 56 - 35 gaining the full 10 points.

The scores rinks were: Marian Lewis, Eryl Nicholls, Pat Cook and May Davies 22-9.

Kay Johns, Ann Mutlow, Peggy Pike and Margaret Morgan 14-11.

Margaret Horgan, Helen Tilley, Etta Gray and Carol Willmot 20-15.

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

It's a Vale 'one-two'



Hannah Lewis receives the trophy.

TWO local horses, *Overlute* and *Chesnut Annie*, who are both owned and trained in the Vale finished first and second respectively in the ladies' open race at the Weston and Banwell Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

Overlute, owned by Steve Whistance and trained by Steve Bevan at Pyle and ridden by Hannah Lewis, drew clear from the prolific *Chesnut Annie* three fences from home to win by six lengths.

In the men's open race, Ogmores Nick Williams, riding David Brace's *Hoofy* was beaten two lengths by the fancied *Ashclyst*.

LLANTWIT BOY SHINES IN UNDER-13 CUP FINAL

A LLANTWIT Major boy, Sam Snaith, played on Saturday for Cardiff and Vale Schoolboys in the under-13 Welsh national final against Swansea schoolboys.

Cardiff and Vale won the game 4-1, with Sam scoring a goal and being named man of the match.

Sam attends Llantwit Major Comprehensive and plays for Llantwit Major Junior FC. To be chosen by the coach as MOTM was fantastic considering he played alongside players who

are at the Bristol Rovers, Bristol City and Cardiff City academies. DS



ABOVE: Sam Snaith.

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...And now for something a little different from Volvo

DESIGNERS, like writers, crave inspiration and a desire to stand out from the crowd for all the right reasons, too.

So what on earth is the poor designer to do when confronted with a request to introduce a new luxury mid-range family hatchback into what many may consider to be a saturated marketplace?

A marketplace flooded with Volkswagens, BMWs and Audis. Not only look to the competition but draw on the past, all the while looking to the future. And that partly helps to explain the new Volvo V40.

This is the second generation model because its predecessor was launched in 1996, manufactured until 2004. My uncle was the proud owner of one of these, until he hit a deer while travelling at speed on the motorway.

He was lucky to be alive but then he was driving a Volvo, renowned for its safety features.

Looking back at the original V40, it followed a long line of

Volvos of that era, with their slightly rounded edges – the manufacturer slowly breaking away from its trademark straight lines of the '80s.

There were a lot of curves on earlier models and in common with many manufacturers, these are being revisited with today's offerings.

The Swedish manufacturer has always offered something slightly different and the new V40 continues along this road.

It can be easily recognised as a modern Volvo, sharing much in common with its larger brothers. But there is no doubt that while the brand has resurrected the V40, the model we have before us shares nothing in common with its ancestor, apart from the distinctive Volvo emblem of course and its flawless safety record.

Today's V40 is clean, fast and perhaps most interestingly of all, a hatchback. The original V40 was offered in either saloon or estate variants.

For me, an important test currently, is whether a car has a large enough boot to carry a cumbersome tandem pushchair. It's not a fair test by any

MOTORING with Tim Saunders



The Volvo V40.

means but one that is necessary in the current state of the Saunders family, made up of two little rascals of two years old and a little over two months.

Harriett, our eldest despises the very thought of having to sit in the front of the pushchair, but eventually gives in after a long day's walking. Heidi is perfectly happy sleeping all day long. Anyway, you can see the necessity.

A great many vehicles have boots that do not allow for such a large item. I thought the Volvo was going to get them.

I was about to give up when I decided to push the split fold rear seats down. This

allowed me to manoeuvre this bulky, awkward item into position and to my surprise and delight, I was then able to pull it back into the boot.

The boot is just wide enough to accommodate the length of the pushchair as you can see from the video at testdrives.biz.

The parcel shelf has to be removed, though. This extremely tight fit means that the same procedure has to be endured to remove the pushchair from the boot.

So it takes a little while and a little biting of the tongue in removing and refitting baby seats.

This is the first hatchback tested that has actually been large

enough for our tandem pushchair.

Externally, it's a distinctive vehicle, the R-Design model tested, complete with alloy wheels and fog lights in the front bumper, make it look sporty, helped by its poise on the road. I like the twin exhausts and the curvaceous boot.

However, I cannot seem to open the rear doors without pressing the keyfob a couple of times.

Inside, the V40 is well appointed with black leather seats, all round electric windows, sat nav and heated front seats.

If the middle seat in the rear isn't being used there's a comfortable armrest and the edge of the seat cleverly conceals cupholders, accessed by the pull of a lever.

Equipped with a slick six-speed manual box, engine stop start and a traditional handbrake (albeit in an off centre position), this 1.6-litre petrol Swede delivers capable performance while returning over 30mpg.

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ABOVE:
Jane Hutt AM with Barry Town Mayor, Coun Les Sword, organisers, volunteers and friends of the festival at the opening.

The opening of Barry Arts Festival has been welcomed and attended the opening of the Festival office on Holton Road on Friday, May 10 by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale, who commented: "It is great to see the festival opening an office on Holton Road with an art exhibition, tickets, information and a chance to be creative! The Barry Arts Festival promises to have something for everyone."

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08 08	FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Eleganza. 32,310 miles, in grey	£4,995
08 08	FORD Fusion 1.4 Zetec Tiptronic. 35,570 miles, in black	£4,995
05 05	RENAULT Megane CC. 38,930 miles, in grey	£4,995
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SZ3**
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**60 RENAULT Wind
Roadster D-Que 1.6**
In silver blue with black leather,
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07 PEUGEOT 107 Sport XS
In black with red trim, 31,000 miles,
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In orange/silver, 35,000 miles with a/c
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- 57 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Design Coupe.** In met silver, 50,000 miles. Stylish hatch ... **£5,495**
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- 58 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Zetec Blue 3-dr.** In met silver, 51,000 miles, £30 road tax ... **£5,495**
- 57 **FORD Focus 1.6 Style 5-dr.** In met blue, 67,000 miles with a/c ... **£4,995**
- 07 **SEAT Altea 1.6 Reference Sport.** In red, 62,000 miles ... **£4,995**
- 55 **FORD Focus 2.0 Ghia Automatic.** In met grey, low mileage, local example at ... **£4,995**
- 05 **MINI Cooper.** In black with white roof, mirrors & stripped, 78,000 miles ... **£4,995**
- 57 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 5-dr.** In black, low mileage local car at ... **£4,995**
- 07 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Sport (90) 5-dr.** In turquoise met, 31,000 miles with a/c ... **£4,995**
- 07 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6SX 5-dr.** In met silver, 54,000 miles, ideal family hatch ... **£4,695**
- 07 **PEUGEOT 107 Sport XS.** In black with red trim, 31,000 miles, £20 road tax ... **£4,695**
- 58 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Design 3-dr.** In met-blue, 72,000 miles, 1 owner ... **£4,695**
- 07 **PEUGEOT 207 1.6 Sport Automatic 3-dr.** In black, 37,000 miles ... **£4,495**
- 06 **TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 Colour 5-dr.** In light met blue, 70,000 miles, a/c, alloys ... **£4,495**
- 58 **VW Fox 1.2 Urban.** In yellow, 39,000 miles, low insurance ... **£4,495**
- 53 **MINI Cooper.** In black with white roof/mirrors, 71,000 miles, leather, pan roof, climate etc ... **£4,395**
- 08 **CITROEN C3 Cachet 14 5-dr.** In silver, 53,000 miles, low insurance ... **£4,295**
- 54 **LANDROVER Freelander 1.8SE 5-dr.** In silver, 74,000 miles with a/c, leather etc ... **£4,295**
- 05 **FORD Focus 2.0 Diesel Ghia 5-Dr.** In black, usual Ghia refinements. 81,000 miles ... **£4,295**
- 06 **FORD Focus 1.6 Diesel LX Estate.** In silver, 86,000 miles ... **£3,995**
- 06 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Style Climate 5-dr.** In glacier silver, 67,000 miles, £30 road tax, CD, Air Con ... **£3,995**
- 06 **TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 Sport 3-dr.** In glacier blue, 61,000 miles, £30 road tax ... **£3,995**
- 55 **SMART Fourtwo Passion Convertible.** In orange/silver, 35,000 miles with a/c, £30 RFL ... **£3,995**
- 06 **CITROEN C1 Vibe 3-dr.** In yellow, 50,000 miles, low insurance ... **£3,795**
- 57 **KIA Picanto 1.1 Ice Automatic 5-dr.** In black, 32,000 miles, low insurance ... **£3,695**
- 05 **FORD Focus 1.6 Ghia (New shape) 5-dr.** In machine silver, 79,000 miles, excellent throughout ... **£3,695**
- 07 **VAUXHALL Vectra 1.8 Exclusive 5-dr.** In met blue. Ideal family hatch at ... **£3,495**
- 57 **FORD Ka Luxury.** In silver with black leather trim, 30,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc ... **£3,495**
- 55 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 3-dr.** In met blue, 56,000 miles ... **£3,495**
- 55 **RENAULT Modus Privilege Automatic.** In gold, 34,000 miles, superb example ... **£3,495**
- 55 **MITSUBISHI Colt 1.1 Attivo 5-dr.** In black, 59,000 miles, low insurance ... **£3,295**
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- 05 **CITROEN C3 1.4SX.** In black, 76,000 miles ... **£2,995**
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1.6 Diesel**
Met blue, 51,000 miles
£6,995



**57 HONDA Jazz 1.4 SE
Automatic**
In red, 42,000 miles, very desirable
£5,995



**08 SKODA Fabia 2 1.6
Estate**
In met gold, 29,000 miles 2 owners
£5,695



**11 PEUGEOT 107
Urban Lite 1.0 3-dr**
Yellow, 5,000 miles, £20 road tax
£5,995



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GEM sport

Pencoed Youth team celebrate their District Cup triumph

PENCOED RFC is celebrating after its Youth Team triumphed in the District Cup.

The boys took on Porthcawl Youth at Kenfig Hill and came out on top 27-16, with captain Jordan Hawkins scoring a crucial try, stretching out a long arm to get the ball down, despite desperate defence from Porthcawl.

The man of the match was Pencoed's Connor Jones.

NEW CAPTAIN

This year's player of the year, outside half Marc Davies, will have the honour of captaining Pencoed next year - during which the club celebrates its 125th anniversary.

PHOTOGRAPHS by
JULIE HANCOCK
(www.juliehancock.org)



ABOVE:

Man of the match Connor Jones receives his award from match sponsor Jeff Dower.



ABOVE: Pencoed captain Jordan Hawkins reaches out to score.

LIONS' LINE UP FOR VELINDRE 'V FOR VICTORY' CAMPAIGN

A GOOD OMEN?



THE British and Irish Lions rugby squad last week took a break from preparing for their Australian tour to show their support for Velindre cancer centre's Victory over Cancer campaign.

The players, led by Lions' Welsh captain and Velindre Patron, Sam Warburton, formed a 'V' shape to give the Velindre 'Victory V' sign.

The campaign launched earlier

this month has already attracted Welsh personalities Ioan Gruffydd, Sian Lloyd, Alex Jones and is also supported by the Welsh rugby team, Cardiff Blues, The Ospreys and Cardiff City.

Head of fundraising at Velindre, Andrew Morris, said: "We are absolutely delighted that the Lions have shown their support for our Victory over Cancer campaign, and really grateful to Lions' coaches Warren Gatland and Rob Howley for arranging the photo.

"Rob and Warren climbed Kilimanjaro for us three years ago, so they have a great understanding of Velindre and the work carried out here."

People can show their support for the campaign by visiting www.velindrefundraising.com/victoryovercancer.

Lions' supporters hope they will be forming another 'V for Victory' of their own at the end of the tour.

WRU supremo joins Cefn Cribbwr cycle charity ride

MEMBERS of Cefn Cribwr rugby club who embarked on a sponsored cycle ride to raise cash for a new club house, were joined by a surprise guest - Welsh Rugby Union chief executive Roger Lewis.

Dubbed the 'Cefn Peleton', the trip took 15 cyclists, including Lewis and members of the Cefn club, as well as members of Pyle and Kenfig Hill rugby clubs, on a 44-mile round trip from the site of the proposed club house to Mumbles in Swansea.

The 'Tour De Cefn' raised in excess of £1,000 towards the club's building fund and Lewis, who is also president of Cefn Cribwr, had been invited to wave the starting flag which sent the riders on their way.

But the WRU group chief exec went a step further and turned up at the event with his bicycle, crash helmet and lycra determined to take a full part, completing the course alongside fellow riders in a respectable 4 hours and 45 minutes.

"I couldn't just turn up, blow the starter horn and wish them on their way," said Lewis.

"The drive and enthusiasm that the organising committee have shown towards getting this project funded and off the ground, and towards its continued fundraising, is an example to all clubs out there of what can be achieved."

"The WRU wants everyone involved in the community game to be fully aware of the available funding streams which have resulted in almost £27 million being received by rugby clubs across Wales from the governing body over the past five years, with Cefn being an excellent example of how to do it."

"We would like to thank all of the cyclists who

took part. They travelled to Mumbles in the poorest of weather conditions, and eventually returned to the old club house in some sunshine, with the wind at their backs up the gruelling hill," said Paul Wintle, honorary general secretary of Cefn Cribwr RFC.

"It was a great surprise to have Roger turn up to take part, especially as he began incognito with his cycle helmet firmly in place, and we would also like to thank him warmly for his efforts."

The full cycling squad was Roger Lewis, Darwell Burnell, Darren Leyshon, Richard Stephens, Anthony Bates, Jeff Jones, Ryland Downs and Phil Davies (organisers), Mike Kelly, Aled Jones, Jac Briggs, Sam Young, Chris Hooper, Chris Webster, Matthew Evans.

Anyone wishing to help with fundraising or interested in the forthcoming golf day, should contact Gwyn Hodges, Hill Top, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend, CF32 0B, telephone 01656 740 277, or email gwyn.hodges1@virgin.net.

Youth team needs players

A NEW youth football team is being formed for the 2013-14 season.

New players are required, and anyone interested in playing for Porthcawl Town Athletic FC youth should contact the coaching team on 0777 2297944.

Players eligible to play youth football will need to be aged over 16 and under 18 years of age on September 1, 2013. Training will begin early in July and will include skills and fitness sessions with the team's level C licence coaches.

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ABOVE: Captain-elect Marc Evans with club president Mal Summers.

TOM AND EVAN AT THE DOUBLE

LLANHARAN'S Tom and Evan David both found themselves in the winners' enclosure last Sunday.

Tom was in action at the North West Point-To-Point at Tisbury where he had a double with *Fruit Fayre* (men's open) and *HowAreYouGoingOn* (restricted).

Younger brother Evan won the open maiden at the Golden Valley meeting on 2-1 outsider *Celtic Fella*.